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Parties' Leaders View Decree on Cabinet Changes

AU0704201493 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1330 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Report by Zamira Kole~i; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Yesterday, after the proposal by Prime Minister Meksi, the president of the republic presented several changes to the composition of the Albanian Government. Today we interviewed representatives of the parliamentary political parties.

These are necessary changes dictated by the need to move faster toward the success of the reform, the Democratic Party Leader Selami declared.

[Selami] "The changes presented by Berisha, at the request of Meksi, are indispensable changes motivated by the course of the reforms carried out so far and the need to march faster on the road to success in economic and political reform in Albania. Despite the reactions and the party and policy bias that the opposition tries to apply to them it is understandable that there are political reasons for every governmental change. I think that these governmental changes are not simply a substitution and a takeover by the right, that is the extreme right, as they have been presented, because I think that this is not a problem that should be proposed for discussion by the Albanian Government and the Democratic Party. This is simply a change dictated by the concrete needs of the government's effort to perfect its work. However, if we have to follow this logic, then it would be difficult to explain why two new members of the new government are not Democratic Party members. Other interpretations can be found, and political arguments can always be found. I think, however, that the changes are dictated by the course of the reform in Albania."

The Social Democrat leader, Gjinushi, called these changes a good beginning and a positive and promising solution, stressing that the government still has weak points that need to be corrected in the near future.

[Gjinushi] "We expressed the need for changes in the government long ago. In objecting to the demand for the government's resignation, we stressed that we did not wish the government to resign but asked for improvements in its composition, both for changes in its structure and of several positions within the government. In this respect, I consider this to be a good beginning and especially welcome several intellectuals belonging to no party, who are appointed ministers of education and tourism. Some of them I know closely. That is why I consider this a positive and promising solution. I would wish this to be a message for local government and for all governments in Albania, so that they expand their social basis by relying more on and basing themselves on efficient specialists, with or without any party affiliation, and not by following a pure single-party policy. The appointment of a deputy chairman responsible only for the reform is a positive measure. We cannot judge the effectiveness of keeping the minister of agriculture and food, especially as the new minister has been one of my opponents. Nevertheless, this is just the beginning, because in our opinion, the government has still many weak points that need to be corrected in the near future. It is worth stressing that many sins or mistakes by a government derive mainly from the policy and bias of the party its members come from."

Expressing the opinion of his party, Socialist Party Deputy Chairman Dokle said that they seek a way of governing with democratic ideals and not through a centralized government.

[Dokle] "It seems the government's suit became worn out very quickly, and Meksi suggested to President Berisha that he put some patches on it. It seems to me, however, that the patches are not very suitable. The holes are visible from far away in Mr. Meksi cabinet's suit. Regarding the Socialist Party attitude, we have presented our request for the government to resign; not for a change in the cabinet or a change of members of the cabinet but a change in the way of governing. We demand a way to govern with democratic ideas on the basis of laws and justice, to build a law-governed state and not a centralized state with old mentalities and practices."

Correction to Meksi Meets With Bosnian Defense Minister

AU0604173693

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Meksi Meets With Bosnian Defense Minister," published in the 6 April East Europe DAILY REPORT, page 2:

Only paragraph, first sentence, make read: ...in his talk with the minister of defense of Bosnia Herzegovina, Bisiq. [Name and title as received] Minister Bisiq made a presentation.... (correcting name, adding editorial notation)

Aleksandrov, Albanian Defense Minister Meet

AU0804060493 Sofia BTA in English 1726 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Sofia, April 7 (BTA)—Bulgarian Defence Minister Valentin Aleksandrov and Albanian Defence Minister Safet Zhulali signed an agreement today on cooperation between the Defence Ministries of the two countries. [passage omitted]

Defence Minister Aleksandrov said that the two sides were unanimous and will adhere to the already adopted principle of noninterference in the conflict in the former Yugoslavia and in their support of the efforts of the international community to settle the crisis by peaceful means. The Defence Ministries of the two countries are apprehensive of a possible spreading of the conflict to other regions of the former federation.

However, Mr. Safet Zhulali was categorical that his country would oppose all attempts at ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. We will do everything possible with all means and the entire potential of the Albanian nation so that there would be no ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, a region in which ethnic Albanians have lived for centuries, the guest said. According to him, Albania does not wish a change of existing borders but a clarification of the status of Kosovo so that the people of this region the right to self-determination by democratic means.

Neev Meets With Macedonian Delegation

AU0804061493 Sofia BTA in English 1812 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Sofia, April 7 (BTA)—Deputy Prime Minister Neycho Neev received today a delegation of the Republic of Macedonia led by Deputy Prime Minister Jovan Andonov. The Macedonian side raised the following issues: the future of the barter deals between the two countries, the cancelling of customs and transport duties on the territories of the two countries, Bulgarian aid in finding markets for Macedonian lambs in countries of the third world, and deepening economic cooperation, in the field of chemistry, in particular. The two deputy prime ministers decided that in order to facilitate the relations between the two countries it is necessary to urgently sign four agreements—on trade, on payments, on avoiding double taxation and on investment encouragement.

Today the working groups of the two countries will prepare drafts to be discussed by experts in the next few days and the agreements themselves are expected to be signed by the end of April.

Transit Fees Agreement Signed

AU0804061593 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1812 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] In Sofia today Deputy Prime Minister Neycho Neev and Jovan Andonov, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Macedonia, signed a protocol to abolish by 20 April travel and omnibus fees for all vehicles registered in both countries.

Ministry Regrets DPRK Leaving Treaty

AU0804060893 Sofia BTA in English 1749 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Sofia, April 7 (BTA)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria expresses its profound concern in connection with the decision of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to withdraw from the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT). The Bulgarian Foreign Ministry views this treaty as a cornerstone of the global nuclear nonproliferation regime, reads a Foreign Ministry declaration received at BTA. Universal participation in the NPT is evidence of the significance which the international community attaches to this instrument of international law, which is of great importance for international security. Concerted action for the consolidation of the nonproliferation regime is one of the principal areas of the efforts to eliminate the potential threat to peace and stability arising from the proliferation of nuclear or any other weapons of mass destruction. The strict and unconditional observance of the NPT and the respective safeguards agreements with IAEA, [International Atomic Energy Agency] under the treaty, is a key prerequisite for securing the viability and the stabilizing role of the nonproliferation regime. Any development at variance with these collective actions would inevitably have a negative impact. In this context, the decision of the DPRK Government to withdraw from the NPT gives the international community cause for deep concern and justified alarm. This step could have unforeseeable consequences for security not only on a regional scale, but also to international peace and security in general, the declaration says.

In its capacity as member of the Board of Governors of the IAEA, the Republic of Bulgaria expresses its full confidence in and support for the operation of the agency, including its inspection procedures, as well as for the Board of Governors' resolutions dated February 25, March 18 and April 1, 1993, which refer the matter to the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations and call on the DPRK to fulfil its obligations under the NPT and the safeguards agreement with the IAEA.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs entirely subscribes to the April 1, 1993 declaration of the Governments of the Russian Federation, United Kingdom and the United States, depositories of the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Foreign Ministry calls on the government of the DPRK to continue its dialogue with the IAEA and render the agency appropriate assistance for the fulfilment of the provisions of the safeguards agreement.

The declaration expresses the hope that the DPRK Government will reconsider its decision and will continue to honour its NPT obligations under international law and strictly observe the provisions of the safeguards agreement with the IAEA.

Pushkarov Hopes To Form New Parliamentary Group

AU0704102093 Sofia KONTINENT in Bulgarian 2 Apr 93 p 3

[Interview with National Assembly Deputy Ivan Pushkarov, industry minister in the previous cabinet of the Union of Democratic Forces, by Miroslava Belcheva; place and date not given: "Many Political Paths Link Pushkarov's Group of Four With the Rights and Freedoms Movement, Bulgarian Socialist Party, and the New Alliance for Democracy, and They Are Recruiting Deputies for a New Parliamentary Group"]

[Text] [Belcheva] Mr. Pushkarov, both you and the "hardliner" Edvin Sugarev boldly criticized the process of turning the rank and file of the SDS [Union of Democratic Forces] into political paupers. The National Coordinating Council expelled you, whereas it merely reprimanded Sugarev for not keeping quiet. Does this seem paradoxical?

[Pushkarov] The time, or rather the shortage of time, in which we live gives rise to many paradoxes, and I have now become convinced of the final paradox—the complete concordance between the positions that Edvin Sugarev advocates in his articles and our own views, which were the reason for our expulsion. We welcome the fact that Edvin Sugarev has come to support the ideas put forward in our declaration. This paradox pay put an end to the political impoverishment of the SDS membership at large that Sugarev has so eloquently described. In this also lies a hope that the SDS will be transformed from a totalitarian into a democratic, pluralist organization, for which aim in fact we continue to work.

[Belcheva] Will you initiate active contacts in parliament with Ludzhev's and Michkovski's NSD [New Alliance for Democracy], the DPS [Rights and Freedoms Movement], and the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party]?

[Pushkarov] We are maintaining daily contacts at the ideological level and trying to establish with the other groups the elements that unite us and those on which we differ. Now we can already think freely, which was impossible when we were in the SDS parliamentary group. It is important for us to develop new ideas on broadening the political arena. It has proved terribly difficult to define the differences between us in the political sense. From now on, the SDS can only survive if it bases itself on the political differences between the members of the SDS coalition and the other political forces.

[Belcheva] What common views does your group of four share with the DPS, BSP, and NSD groups?

[Pushkarov] I cannot tell you about everything that we discussed because the talks are still going on. Nevertheless, I should mention first of all that our concepts and those of the NSD are similar in several respects. First, we agree that before putting aside the pages in the book that describe the SDS's one-year period of government, we should first read what they have to say. The SDS cannot continue further without making such an analysis. Second, we agree that individuals should be made to bear political responsibility and that conclusions should be reached concerning the future existence of the SDS coalition. This process is already strongly under way within the SDS parliamentary group. Proof of this is the fact that a document is being prepared on the status of the SDS National Coordinating Council and parliamentary group, the very thing that we demanded in our declaration before they expelled us. Third, we are in agreement on many aspects of the reform that have either failed or not been completed. The SDS has even created many new problems as a result of its failure to implement important elements of the reform.

[Belcheva] Does this mean that you have overcome your skepticism and will join the NDS parliamentary group?

[Pushkarov] No, this is not necessary. In our view, formal unity is the most dangerous kind of unity. What is important is that we should be united regarding political values. We intend to press ahead with our efforts and succeed in forming a fifth parliamentary group, and we are sure that this will happen.

Government Backs Away From Compensation Demand

AU0704113993 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 3 Apr 93 p 1

["sim, CTK"-signed report: "Different Ideas About Property Division; Kocarnik: We Will Back Away From the Demand for Compensation"]

[Excerpt] Prague—The Czech Republic will back away from its demand for 19 billion korunas in compensation for inter-republican transfers of property within the framework of coupon privatization. The condition is that Slovakia will not demand compensation for the division of former federal enterprises, Czech Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Ivan Kocarnik said at a news conference yesterday. He specified that this proposal resulted from agreements between Prime Ministers Klaus and Meciar.

During the talks on dividing federal property, the Slovak side refused to negotiate about compensation for coupon privatization and kept raising the issue of compensation for enterprises such as Czechoslovak Airlines, Cedok, and the Czechoslovak Maritime Fleet.

According to Minister Kocarnik, both parts of the property commission will meet in Bratislava on Wednesday [7 April] to wind up all partial agreements. The entire package of property agreements must then be signed by the prime ministers of the two republics. [passage omitted]

Czech and Slovak Armies To Divide Assets 2:1

AU0704171693 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 2 Apr 93 p 3

["vin"-signed report: "Textbooks Will Also Be Divided Between Armies"]

[Text] Brno—The Czech and the Slovak Republics' Armies will divide equipment in the military academies, including textbooks, in a 2:1 ratio. At the same time, there will be an exchange of students of both nationalities, which will apply, according to our information, to some 2,000 people. This is what was agreed between representatives of both Defense Ministries in Brno yesterday. According to an estimate, 1,400 students will return to the Czech Republic from Slovakia, and 500 of them will finish their education at the Military Academy in Brno, others at schools in Prague, Moravska Trebova, and Vyskov. Several hundred Slovaks will travel in the opposite direction. The exact number is not known, since Slovak students can choose, by 31 March, which army to serve in. As of the academic year 1993-94, the military academies of both countries will provide only limited services to the citizens of the other country, and they will be charged for it, as is usually the case in relations with foreign countries.

KDS Reaches Agreement on Reconciliation

AU0704101893 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 5 Apr 93 p 2

[CTK report: "Reconciliation in the Christian Democratic Party; Congress Will Be in December"]

[Text] Prague—A preliminary agreement on reconciliation was reached in the Christian Democratic Party [KDS] over whether or not to call an extraordinary party congress. The congress was to deal with, among other issues, the resignation of Vaclav Benda from the post of KDS chairman. The decision on reconciliation was made at a meeting of the KDS Republican Representative Committee on Saturday [3 April]. The regular party congress is to be held in December this year. According to KDS Deputy Chairman Pavel Tollner, deputy chairman of the Chamber of Deputies, the meeting on Saturday confirmed that there never existed any other platform of opinion within the KDS and does not exist now. KDS Chairman Vaclav Benda said that one would "not dissect what happened."

KDS spokesman Frantisek Stanek recalled that Vaclav Benda would not aspire to the post of chairman of the Czech Statistical Office. The KDS's demand to fill the post of deputy prime minister is still valid, according to Stanek. However, we do not insist that this demand be immediately met because we understand that the system in the government cannot be abruptly changed, he added. Stanek observed that the KDS did not demand anything that would not arise for it from the original coalition agreements. The KDS aspires to the control of two nongovernmental institutions but Vaclav Benda refused to specify which. The appointments to top-ranking positions in these unspecified institutions should, according to his words, be resolved "within a few weeks" in the first case and "within a few months" in the second case.

[Prague CESKY DENIK in Czech on 5 April on page 2 carries a 400-word Stanislav Knenicky report on the KDS leadership meeting. The report cites an unidentified member of the KDS leadership as having told CESKY DENIK that the two positions to which the KDS lays claim are the general inspector of the Czech Army and president of the Supreme Control Office. Vaclav Benda is said to be his party's candidate for the former and Vaclav Perich for the latter post.]

Meciar Expects Parliament To Approve Policy

AU0704143693 Bratislava REPUBLIKA in Slovak 6 Apr 93 p 1

[TA SR report on an interview with Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar by an unidentified correspondent in Bratislava on 5 April: "Decentralization Is Inevitable; No Threat of a Vote of No-Confidence in the Government"]

[Text] Bratislava—The implementation of the Slovak Government Policy Statement of July 1992 and the updating of the Policy Statement in view of the founding of the independent Slovak Republic were, according to Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar, the basic documents discussed by the Slovak Government at its extraordinary meeting in Bratislava yesterday.

Time Will Show

In an interview for Slovak Television and TA SR, the prime minister voiced the assumption that parliament would subject these materials to criticism. He does not assume, however, that it will pass a vote of no-confidence in the government. He said that, from the viewpoint of the assessment of past steps, the government has done a tremendous amount of work, which would probably be fully appreciated only retrospectively. "Only people suffering from hatred can belittle this work," he added.

General Recession

According to the prime minister, several factors need to be taken into consideration when evaluating the activity of the Slovak Government. These are the repercussions of the worldwide economic recession, the disintegration of previous security structures and the political system, and other influences of these processes on the population of individual countries of Europe. Internal factors, such as the founding of an independent state and the depth of the economic crisis in the Slovak Republic, must be considered as well.

Speaking about the updated Slovak Government Policy Statement, Vladimir Meciar said that it specifies the main tasks and individual steps of the government in the next three years. He explained that this was not a new program but a modification of the old program, modification with a view to the founding of the independent Slovak Republic. "The original program remains valid and a great part of it has already been fulfilled and even overfulfilled," he stated.

Evaluation Is Premature

Asked whether it was possible to presently evaluate the work of individual departments, Vladimir Meciar said that it was too early to determine which ministerial department performed better and which one worse. The departments have been working well, in his opinion, but their tasks were not always equal in terms of magnitude.

Czech, Slovak Ministers Initial Property Deals

LD0804102593 Prague CTK in English 2200 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Bratislava April 7 (CTK)—Czech and Slovak Finance Ministers Ivan Kocarnik and Julius Toth initialled here today four of the nine partial agreements on dividing the property of the former Czechoslovak Federation between its two successor states.

The agreements cover the transfer of federal government claims towards foreign countries to the jurisdiction of the Czech and Slovak governments, succession to agreements on foreign loans in the form of government credits in support of the balance of payments, transfer of the federation's property share in international monetary and financial institutions to the two republics' jurisdiction, and transfer of the federation's state guarantees on foreign loans.

The most complicated talks concerned division of the property of the former Czechoslovak State Bank. The Slovak side demanded that talks on this problem be postponed until April 19. Slovak National Bank Vice-Governor Marian Tkac said that the agreement might be signed on April 23.

The problem of shares gained by Czech and Slovak citizens in the other republic in last year's first wave of coupon privatisation was not discussed at today's talks. Kocarnik told journalists this problem would disappear when the two sides agree on all other points concerning property division.

The initialled agreements must be approved by the two republics' governments and then ratified by their parliaments.

The talks in Bratislava continue with debate over the remaining agreements.

General Prosecutor Accuses Minister of Violation

AU0704164293 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 3 Apr 93 p 2

[TA SR report: "General Prosecutor's Verdict: The Minister Violated the Law"]

[Text] Bratislava—Slovak Minister of Education and Science Matus Kucera's course of action in recalling the directors of school administrations and subsequently appointing new directors violated Slovak National Council Law No. 542 of 1990 on State Administration in Education and School Self-Administration. This is stated in a letter from Vojtech Bacho, prosecutor general of the Slovak Republic, to the minister of education.

When dealing with a complaint submitted to it by the Teachers' Forum, the General Prosecutor's Office ascertained that the Slovak minister of education had recalled 41 district school directors effective 31 October 1992 without previously obtaining a proposal to this effect

from the relevant district school councils. The General Prosecutor's Office ascertained, furthermore, that in several instances the minister had not accepted proposals from the respective school councils and appointed different persons as directors of school administrations. As was stated in the Radio Journal program yesterday at noon, the only way in which the unlawfully recalled directors can defend themselves is by appealing to the appropriate court.

Minister of Education and Science Matus Kucera regards the standpoint of the General Prosecutor's Office as surprising. He insists that he had recalled the school directors in harmony with valid legal regulations. Article 5, paragraph 10, of Slovak National Council Law No. 542 of 1990 authorizes him, as the head of a central body of state administration, to appoint and recall directors of school administrations. The fact that the relevant school council did not recommend that a school administration director be recalled has no bearing on the validity of the minister's decision to recall him. The interpretation of the aforementioned law had been consulted with the legislative section of the Ministry of Education and Science and with the legislative section of the Slovak Government. The fact that the General Prosecutor's Office arrived at a different interpretation evidently constitutes a dilemma for the two legal entities. The Ministry of Education and Science will turn to the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic with a request to resolve this conflict.

SZOPK Holds Congress, Elects New Chairman

AU0704095293 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 5 Apr 93 p 2

["er"-signed report: "Environmentalists With a New Chairman"]

[Text] Spisska Nova Ves—The eighth congress of the Slovak Union of Nature and Landscape Protectors (SZOPK) ended yesterday after two days of deliberations. More than 100 delegates from all districts of the republic discussed the further direction of the activities of this organization, which has 6,500 members. The discussion speeches showed that the organization is undergoing a process of transformation under new and harsher economic conditions. The SZOPK's professional apparatus has been reduced to a minimum. The SZOPK wants to move from campaigns and activities marked by vehemence toward activities that exert pressure on the adoption of ecological legislation. The SZOPK leadership, too, underwent major changes. A seven-member SZOPK Executive Committee was elected by secret ballot, which then elected Miroslav Fulin, researcher at the East Slovak Museum, as its chairman. Fulin thus replaced Mikulas Huba as SZOPK chairman.

Metal Workers Union Officially Organized

AU0704085193 Bratislava REPUBLIKA in Slovak 5 Apr 93 p 4

[TA SR report: "The Strongest Trade Union Organization"]

[Excerpts] Piestany— The activity of the CSFR Trade Union of Metal Workers was officially terminated at its extraordinary congress in Brno on 2 April, whereupon the more than 300 delegates to the congress from Slovakia, representing almost 300,000 members of the union, met at the constituent congress of the Trade Union of Metal Workers in Slovakia [OZ KOVO na Slovensku] in Piestany. [passage omitted]

At the close of the constituent congress, the delegates elected the Council of the Trade Union of Metal Workers in Slovakia, which then elected its Presidium with Jozef Krumpolec at the head. Eugen Skultety became deputy chairman and Anton Mifka executive secretary.

Waste Kills Fish; Pollution Within Limits

AU0804084693 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 3 Apr 93 p 9

[TA SR report: "Waste Within the Norm, Fish Dead"]

[Text] Jaslovske Bohunice—Alkaline waste water from the Jaslovske Bohunice nuclear plant penetrated into the Manivier water stream in Zizkovcie on Thursday [1 April]. This water has nothing to do with radioactive waste, and does not affect the safety of the operation of the nuclear power plant. Robert Gunis from the Slovak Electrical Engineering Plants confirmed this in a letter to the TA SR yesterday. Waste water caused fish to die in the stream. A test confirmed that during the leak impurities did not exceed the allowable limits of pollution of surface waters.

Antall Receives Slovak Parliament Chairman

LD0804061893 Prague CTK in English 2103 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By CTK correspondent]

[Text] Budapest April 7—Hungary is not interested in Slovakia's international isolation and will not create any barriers to its admission to the Council of Europe, Hungarian Premier Jozsef Antall said today after his meeting with visiting Slovak Parliament Chairman Ivan Gasparovic.

Antall and Gasparovic agreed that the contentious issue of the Gabcikovo-Nagymaros hydroelectric project on the Danube must be decided by the International Court of Justice in the Hague, to which the dispute is now being submitted. Budapest and Bratislava will accept the court's ruling, the two officials agreed.

Gasparovic, who is heading a Slovak parliamentary delegation on a three-day visit to Hungary, and Antall discussed the problem of ethnic minorities. Antall said the Hungarian Government's care for ethnic Hungarians living in Slovakia can in no case be considered interference in Slovakia's internal affairs.

Speaking of a Slovak-Hungarian basic agreement on cooperation now under preparation, Antall said it should not be formal but concrete.

Bratislava would like the agreement to contain a provision on the unchangeability of the Slovak-Hungarian border. In this context Antall said that the frontier between the two countries is set by international agreements. Hungary resolutely respects them and will respect them also in the future. Neither the Hungarian Government nor any decisive political force aims at any change of the borders and Budapest therefore considers this issue to be groundless, he said.

The Slovak delegation met later with Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky.

Earlier in the day, Gasparovic met with Hungarian Parliament Chairman Gyorgy Szabad for talks focused on the controversial Gabcikovo-Nagymaros twin-dam project, ethnic minorities, the unchangeability of the Slovak-Hungarian border, and economic cooperation.

Gasparovic admitted that there are certain problems in Slovakia concerning ethnic minorities, but said that they are solvable.

Gasparovic invited Szabad for a visit to Slovakia. The invitation was accepted.

After their meeting, both parliament chairmen called their talks very useful and stimulating.

Defense Expert Views Army Reorganization

AU0604133693 Budapest MAGYAR NEMZET in Hungarian 3 Apr 93 p 6

[Interview with Tibor Koszegvari, director of the Strategic and Defense Research Institute, by Zoltan Vereckei; place and date not given: "Terrorism and Migration Are the Problems of the 21st Century"]

[Excerpts] Our institute has been carrying out research on international terrorism and refugee problems for one and a half years. We think these two areas will represent the greatest problem for Europe in the first half of the 21st century. We will have to face a wave of refugees, and we have to maintain considerable forces to contain this wave. It would not be expedient to use army units for such purposes because it would upset the army's training schedule and would also present organizational problems that would disrupt the operations of the armed forces—Tibor Koszegvari told MAGYAR NEMZET. [passage omitted]

[Vereckei] The size of our army is one of the debated issues that will determine the situation of our army in the long run. As is well known, the Defense Ministry has stipulated that the size should be 100,000 troops; others, both political organizations and experts, would like to see a much smaller army.

[Koszegvari] In my opinion, in determining the size of our army, the main thing we should take into consideration is the situation prevailing in our region. If we do this, we can see that Ukraine has 600,000 troops, Romania 200,000, Serbia 135,000, and Croatia 105,000, while only Slovakia, Slovenia, and Austria have smaller armies than Hungary. It is also a fact that Hungary reduced the size of its army by 55,000 troops over three years, while no such reduction has been carried out elsewhere in our region. On the contrary, the newly established states have embarked on serious development. At the same time, it is clear that the number of weapons has decreased considerably among our neighbors. However, Ukraine, Romania, and Serbia continue to enjoy great superiority regarding the number of tanks, artillery, and combat aircraft—and Serbia has refused to sign the Helsinki Agremeent. [passage omitted]

[Vereckei] Critics claim that, as early as the beginning of the change in the regime, we should have evaluated the army's needs for weapons and technology. However, the old and obsolete weapons systems are still in operation, and maintaining these systems costs a lot of money.

[Koszegvari] The Hungarian Army inherited military technology from the Warsaw Pact and we must get rid of most of this technology. The question is how, because there is no money. The dismantling and smelting of a single tank costs 200,000-300,000 forints! Thus, the army has no choice and is forced to keep these systems in storage.

[Vereckei] The leadership of the Hungarian Army is too complex. There are more high-ranking leaders today than during the Czinege era [Lajos Czinege was defense minister in the Kadar era]. What is your opinion about this?

[Koszegvari] This claim is false. There have been considerable changes both in the higher-level and lower-level echelons of the leadership of the Hungarian Army in recent years. Compared with the former staff of 1,400 people working in the Defense Ministry and the army headquarters, there are only 1,000 people working there today. [passage omitted]

Development of German Economic Relations Reviewed

LD0604090193 Budapest MTI in English 0752 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Budapest, April 6 (MTI)—The momentum experienced in the development of Hungarian-German economic relations remained unbroken in 1992. The value of trade reached a record level of USD 6.15 billion, which accounted for about 30 per cent of Hungary's foreign trade.

The value of Hungarian exports was the highest ever, totalling USD 3.1 billion, a 10 per cent rise over the previous year. The volume of German investments in Hungary also continued to increase, and totalled about USD 500 million, which is more than one-tenth of the total foreign investment in the country.

Hungarian-German trade is regulated by an agreement concluded with the FRG on economic, industrial and technical cooperation, and prolonged in 1984 for another ten years, and by Hungary's association agreement with the European Community, signed on December 16, 1992. The latter came into provisional force last March and has been prolonged this year.

The benefits set down in it—lifting quantitative restrictions, reducing tariffs, increasing import quotas on certain agricultural products, and the fact that the EC provided similar preferential treatment for Hungarian manufactures as it did for the developing countries—gave a boost to relations with the now unified German economy.

At present, Germany is Hungary's number one trading partner. In 1992, 29 per cent of Hungarian exports, and 28 per cent of imports were to and from Germany. Germany shared USD 3.08 billion of the total USD 10.7 billion value of Hungarian exports, and the same value from total Hungarian imports of USD 11 billion. (This share is in accordance to the 1937 proportion.)

Figures from the past three years indicate a powerful growth in trade, and a balance between exports and imports. In 1990, the value of Hungarian exports to Germany totalled USD 1.72 billion, as compared to USD 2.76 billion in 1991 and USD 3.08 billion in 1992. Imports from Germany were valued at USD 1.62 billion in 1990, USD 2.59 billion in 1991, and USD 3.08 billion in 1992.

The share of engineering products in exports to Germany was around 30 per cent, and of food industry products more than 20 per cent. In just a year, commission work for Germany rose by about 60 per cent, mainly owing to the light industry and oil processing. The value of Hungarian work carried out in Germany was several hundreds of millions of dollars, in 1992, on a monthly average, about 14,000 Hungarians worked in German companies. The number of Hungarian companies involved in bilateral trade has also gone up, with 10,000 or so ventures engaged in export and import transactions in 1992.

The value of German investments in Hungary in 1992 totalled USD 480 million, more than one-tenth of the total foreign investment value of USD 4.7 billion. The combined number of fully German-owned and joint German-Hungarian companies rose to 3,000 by the end of 1992, which is about 23 per cent of the 13,000 firms in full or partial foreign ownership. These figures put Germany in second place, behind the United States, both in regard to investments in Hungary, and company interests in Hungary.

From among the companies investing in Hungary, Siemens, the Heinkel concern and the Stollwerck AG. have decided to realize new investments alongside their existing ones. Siemens, after having acquired ownership of the telephone factory and Dunaenergia, the Dunakabel and the Electric Installation Co., will now open a chain. The Heinkel firm, alongside operating the Szolnok detergent factory of Tisza chemical works TVK, has now entered into two new ventures. Stollwerck has begun organizing two Hungarian units.

Other german firms are only just beginning to invest in the Hungarian market. They include Schering AG., which last year founded a chemical trade plc.

The largest investment of the coming period is the car assembling unit to be set up by the Volkswagen-Audi AG. In Gyor from 1994 major German participation is also expected in the development of the Hungarian infrastructure. Through its largest investment bank, the Kreditanstalt Fur Wiederaufbau, the German Government is to provide a DM [German mark] 450 million loan to modernize the Hungarian section of the Budapest-Vienna railway line.

Suchocka Views Economic, Political Scene

AU0804094493 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 5 Apr 93 pp 1, 9

[Interview with Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka by Josef Vesely in Warsaw; date not given: "Hanna Suchocka: Jointly to Europe and a Market Economy"]

[Text] Warsaw—(From our special correspondent) Hanna Suchocka has been chairing the Polish Government for nine months. Her country is one of the most important neighbors of the Czech Republic. This is why we asked the prime minister for an interview.

[Vesely] The Czech Republic is convinced that, of the four countries of the Visegrad Group [Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland], Prague is doing the best in terms of the transformation. Are you going to ask for a formula during your visit to Prague tomorrow?

[Suchocka] I do not venture to pass judgment on Czech solutions. What may be successful in your country may be unusable in Poland—if for no other reason than because the Czech Republic is a smaller country. I have spoken about it with Prime Minister Klaus several times, and we have always reached agreement that our joint goal is a free market economy, unification with Europe, and the defense of democracy. Every country must define its own course of action and its tempo. Poland will take its own road.

[Vesely] You held talks with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and so did the Czech prime minister. Reportedly, all three of you have agreed on something important as regards the approach to the EC. What is it?

[Suchocka] It seems to us that the period between the Association Treaty and full membership is too long—it is also desirable to formulate gradual goals. These goals then should be reached in cooperation with the EC partners. Of course, I would like to speak about it in detail with Prime Minister Klaus during my visit to Prague. This is a vital issue for us, and for you, too.

[Vesely] The Czech Republic is a new country in Central Europe. The government parties are subscribing to the conservative policy of the classical right wing. One of the reasons for the division of Czechoslovakia was the "leftist" orientation of Slovakia. Now, in Poland, too, there is a possible prospect of a left-of-center government. Can you confirm this?

[Suchocka] I believe that such speculations are premature. We have a coalition and there is no doubt that this is a right-of-center coalition. I do not see a reason to change it. We cannot speak about the coalition that will be established after the elections until we have the results of these elections. Despite the press commentaries before the convention of our Democratic Union, I have not noticed any similar movements. They speak about the necessity to establish the five-percent limit for a party to be represented in parliament, however, even this would not solve all the problems in a future parliament. If it happened that the Union of the Democratic Left and the Confederation of Independent Poland came out strong from the elections, it would be difficult to expect that they would form a coalition. However, it would be ideal if two or three pro-reformist parties gained a clear majority. This would also depend on the time when the elections are held—whether the elections are premature and other conditions.

[Vesely] During your visit to the city of Pleszewa several days ago, they mentioned your final examination at the secondary school there. You were waiting in vain for a cheat sheet for the mathematics exam, but finally, found your own solution. Do they offer you, as Polish prime minister, cheat sheets from Poland or from abroad?

[Suchocka] As far as my final examination is concerned, the story is authentic. Today? They do not come when I need them most. Fortunately, I can use the advice of many experts. This helps me particularly on financial issues. I cannot deny it; I was not the best at mathematics.

[Vesely] As far as privatization and transformation are concerned, a TIME correspondent on Warsaw television described your country as an unstable element, where the coalition is weak and investors are afraid to put their money. What do you think about this?

[Suchocka] I must say that I cannot agree with such an opinion. The fact that the coalition, consisting of so many parties, has lasted for more than eight months—it will soon be nine—testifies to a high degree of stability. However, a coalition composed of many parties is more likely to get into trouble and conflicts than a coalition of just a few parties. Anyway, it seems to me that certain opinions on instability in Poland do not always correspond to reality.

I also cannot agree with the opinion that Poland has not created favorable conditions for investors. However, we cannot give them complete freedom, as some think we should. They do not have complete freedom in any country. Most often, we are being reproached for having imposed limits on the purchase of land. Whoever wants to buy it, for investment purposes, will get the approval. If there are some restrictions, then they ensue from the transformation process itself, and from the fact that we need to overcome some bureaucratic habits. We are working on this. This is not a matter for the legislative bodies alone.

[Vesely] The Sejm is just discussing a bill on general privatization. What significance does this bill have for the unsolved problems of the transformation?

[Suchocka] This bill is needed so that clear ownership relations may be established. However, privatization processes in Poland did not start only yesterday. Today, more than half of the people are employed in private enterprise. It is not true that we are not privatizing. With the introduction of general privatization, we want to give a chance to enterprises which are no longer able to

function as state enterprises. Their employees and other people should be given an opportunity to participate in privatization and help enterprises with relatively good prospects. This was our intention. We received many suggestions about what general privatization should be, and we have proposed just one. This is not satisfactory to everyone, but I am of the opinion that we will finally be able to reach a consensus.

I believe that every post-communist country is experimenting with privatization, and is waiting for real results.

[Vesely] Is it true that Poland is hesitating, from the domestic point of view, to accelerate the introduction of the free trade zone between the Central European countries, as some ministers are saying in Prague?

[Suchocka] Poland was the initiator of the agreement on the free trade zone—which came into force on 1 March this year—and called for this treaty to be signed. Poland is not obstructing its implementation.

[Vesely] In Poland there are still politicians who oppose the rapprochement with the EC, or even too large a liberalization of trade with neighbors—because of the protection of farmers.

[Suchocka] Can you tell me where there are no politicians like that? Even in the EC countries—whose citizens have become used to being close together—we can observe protests by farmers against price movements which are unfavorable to them. It is no wonder that there is dissatisfaction with a government that is not integrated into the EC system and that is going through a difficult transition period from one type of economy to another. I do not see anything unusual here.

The Polish Government is betting on the closest relations possible with all its neighbors. This also was a reason why Poland was concerned about the treaty on the free trade zone. We believe it is necessary to create the prerequisites for integration into the pan-European unified open market in our region. This is a development which we would also like to see in countries beyond our eastern borders.

[Vesely] Do you agree with the pragmatic character of the Visegrad cooperation, which was praised in the recent declaration by EC foreign ministers in Brussels?

[Suchocka] The existence of the Visegrad group has even greater importance since the division of Czechoslovakia. Slovakia cannot be left aside. It would certainly be better if Slovakia were fully integrated with Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic.

Iran's Majles Speaker in Warsaw for Visit

LD0704193093 Tehran IRNA in English 1749 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Warsaw, April 7, IRNA—Speaker of Iran's Majles (parliament) 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri and his Polish counterpart Vislav Khoshnovskis [name as received] here today agreed on the need for diversifying Iran-Poland relations in political, cultural and economic areas.

The two sides considered the formation of a friendship group by the parliaments of the two countries and the speaker of the Polish parliament proposed the establishment of mixed council of the parliamentary deputies of the two countries for furthering the mutual relaions between Iran and Poland with which was agreed to by Nateq-Nuri.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri deplored the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the irresponsible attitude of international organizations as well as their dual standards in dealing with the massacre of Muslims by the Serbs.

He said it was sorrowful that when the Muslims and the Croatians agreed to sign an agreement in order to stop bloodshed the Serbs had refused to do the same.

The speaker of the Polish parliament expressed concern over the aggravating situation in the Balkans saying Poland respects the nations who are struggling for their independence. He said his government is ready to participate in and contribute to U.N. programmes for returning peace to the Balkans.

The Iranian official also appreciated the aid of the Polish Government to Muslim refugees of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The speaker of the Iranian parliament arrived in Warsaw, heading a ranking delegation from Iran.

U.S.-Donated Patrol Boats Arrive To Reinforce Embargo

AU0704172693 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1300 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] The civilian vessel the Stella Lykes, flying the U.S. flag and coming from Charleston, South Carolina, arrived in Constanta Sud-Agigea at 1300 hours. The vessel's cargo consists of six patrol speedboats offered by the United States to Romania and Bulgaria—three each—to reinforce the embargo on the Danube established by UN Security Council resolutions against Serbia and Montenegro—our correspondents Dragos Ciocarlan and Constantin Lamba report.

The vessel anchored at Wharf 121 at 1430 hours, in the presence of the harbor authorities, the police, and the Constanta Customs. This U.S. gift for technical assistance to our country and other neighboring countries, which consists of six speedboats, 22 barrels of special oils, and the accompanying U.S. experts to help with the preparations for the utilization of these vessels, will be taken to Giurgiu River harbor by trailer.

Government Urges Bosnian Serbs To Accept UN Plan

AU0704190093 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] The Romanian Government issued a statement concerning the evolution of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The statement says that the government is closely following and is very concerned with the evolution of the situation in the former Yugoslavia, especially the tragic conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina which aggravates the dramatic situation for the people there, causing great loss of human life, huge material damage, and increasing the danger of the spreading of the war.

Being a confirmed advocate of the peaceful settlement of all conflicts and supporting the efforts made by the international community to solve the Bosnian conflict, says the statement, the government believes that the peace plan proposed by the cochairmen of the international conference on the former Yugoslavia [Cyrus Vance and David Owen], also sanctioned by the UN Security Council, is the only viable and realistic means available to put an end to bloodshed and destruction, defuse the conflict, and politically settle the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

According to the view of the government, the acceptance of the Vance-Owen plan by the Croatian and Muslim communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina was an important step toward reaching a peaceful settlement of the conflict. That is why the government is concerned that the representatives of the Serbian community in Bosnia and Herzegovina have not yet accepted the Vance-Owen plan. This contributes to the continuation and aggravation of the conflict, which could trigger strong reactions in the international community, which is deeply concerned with the tragic events happening there. These events include the strengthening of the embargo imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its international isolation, which will have direct consequences both concerning the population of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the people living in neighboring countries.

Sincerely wishing to contribute to the settlement of those complex problems and considering the traditional friendship between Romania and all the nations living in the former Yugoslavia, the government emphatically calls on the leadership of the Serbian community in Bosnia and Herzegovina and all its economic and military forces to make an effort to comply with the UN Security Council resolutions and the peace plan proposed by Vance and Owen. This would create a new situation favoring the continuation of the negotiations by curbing hostilities, and would result in creating the prerequisites for the reestablishment of peaceful coexistence among the three ethnic communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Understanding that from the point of view of the Bosnian Serb leaders the adoption of such a position would be tantamount to making a new sacrifice, the government believes that such sacrifice would have incomparably lesser consequences than the loss of further human life if the conflict continues, and it would also open the way to compromise and a lasting solution.

We are convinced that the three ethnic communities which have been living together for centuries will sooner or later regain their balance, and that it would be tragic if their future would continue to be in jeopardy. The government expresses its hope that the realistic and responsible authorities in Bosnia and Hercegovina will find the necessary strength to surmount the current difficulties and respond positively to efforts made by the international community to peacefully settle the conflict.

The government also calls on the countries neighboring the former Yugoslavia, all countries in the region, and all other countries involved to use their influence on the parties to the conflict. This would contribute positively to ending the violence, eliminating the danger of the conflict spreading, and the political settlement of the conflict in compliance with the international community's efforts, concludes the statement.

Foreign Ministry Rejects Jeszenszky Statement

AU0804061293 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1600 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 7/3/1993—Regarding the allegations the Hungarian foreign minister, Geza Jeszenszky, made in Washington, on which occasion he used the term "ethnic cleansing" when speaking of Hungarian minorities, the spokeswoman for the Romanian Foreign Ministry, Simona Miculescu mentioned that "the excessive use of this term seems to be not so much intended

for Romania, as neither Hungarian ethnics nor Romanian ones believe in the existence of such a policy in this country. We think that what is in view, is to internationalize the term and we have been forced to link it to the efforts made by Romania to enter international bodies, the Council of Europe first of all."

As for the "Open Skies" agreement between Romania and Hungary, the latter decided to have a flight over Western Romania on April 7. Romania will have a similar action in Hungary.

Melescanu Assesses Talks With UK Defense Official

AU0804061093 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1442 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 7/4/1993—British Secretary of State for Defense Archibald Hamilton, on a visit to Romania, had an interview Wednesday, April 7, with Teodor Melescanu, Romanian minister of state and minister of foreign affairs.

In a statement for the press Mr. Hamilton said discussions had approached the UN decision about Bosnia and the intentions of the UN to enforce the Vance-Owen plan in case it was signed by all sides. Also discussed was the evolution of the situation in Russia, which is of great importance for Romania.

In turn Teodor Melescanu spoke at large about the topics tackled during discussions: "besides bilateral aspects, a particular interest was aroused by the international problems that concern us, and in that context the situation in Yugoslavia. I said that all such actions as are taken on an international scale were pressure elements towards acceptance of the Vance-Owen plan and relaunching negotiations. Mr. Hamilton was more pessimistic and voiced the idea that the coming spring would lead to an intensification of military actions in the area of former Yugoslavia. I found it encouraging that the British side appreciated that a direct armed intervention was a very risky enterprise, whose consequences are difficult to foresee, as that is an idea we share."

"I have shown that in our opinion the evolutions in Russia will be relatively different from those in the former socialist countries, as it is a country with an entirely different space, a country relatively retarded from the point of view of democratic traditions, added to which are ethnic conflicts and economic difficulties," Minister Melescanu said. "What is important for us is to support those political forces which are a vector of progress and express tendencies towards democratization and passing to a market economy. I have underscored the fact that as far as we are concerned the interest is of a practical nature, because any conservative restoration in Moscow will have profoundly negative effects on the relations with Romania and Moldova."

Spiroiu, Hamilton Discuss Relations

AU0804061193 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1504 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 7/4/1993—Lieutenant-General Niculae Spiroiu, Romania's minister of defense, met, Wednesday, April 7, a delegation headed by Archibald Hamilton, secretary of state for defense of Great Britain.

Minister Spiroiu told his British guests that the Romanian Army showed openness towards the civil society, in concord with the principles of the state of law. He also presented details on the modernization of Romanian military structures. Mr. Hamilton made a few remarks on the positive course of the links between the armies of the two countries. The two sides showed interested in developing cooperation ties between the Ministries of Defense of the two countries.

Industrial Production Drops 19.6 Percent Over Jan-Feb

AU0604191393 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1312 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 6/4/1993—According to the data supplied by the National Statistics Commission, quoted by TRIBUNA ECONOMICA weekly newspaper, over the first two months of 1993 industrial production in Romania has dropped 19.6 percent as to last year's same period. Superior levels were reached only in extraction and processing of metal ores and coal, production and distribution of electricity and thermal power, the chemical and synthetic fibers industry, and in crude oil processing.

The resources of primary energy were 4.5 percent smaller, mainly as a result of a drop in oil, natural gas, and hydroelectricity output.

Exports payable in hard currency over the first two months amounted to $469.1 million, 7.5 percent less against last year's same period, while imports amounted to $639.8 million (a minus of 7.9 percent), therefore a negative balance of $170.7 million.

Over the first two months of 1993 the private sector accounted for 25.2 percent of the exports and 22.1 percent of the imports. The volume of retail sales was 25.8 percent smaller than last year's same period.

Parliament Approves 260.2 Billion Lei Defense Budget

AU0704090193 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0843 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 7/4/1993—During a debate over the 1993 budget, parliament approved on Tuesday, 6 April, the defence budget for 1993, which is to go up to 260.2 billion lei, that is, more than $430 million.

Government Decides on 6 Percent Wage Indexation

AU0704111193 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0811 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 7/4/1993—The Romanian Government decided an indexation of the salaries paid in March and April with a gross value of 2,500 lei per salary. The salaries paid to public servants will be raised 6 percent beginning with March. The pensions and other social benefits and allowances will also rise 6 percent.

Pursuant to this indexation, beginning with March the minimum basic gross salary in Romania amounts to 17,800 lei for a full work time of 170 hours per month.

Opposition Urges U.S. Congress To Grant MFN Status

AU0704110393 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0903 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 7/4/1993—The leaders of the opposition parties in Romania's Parliament: Christian Democratic National Peasant Party, the National Salvation Front, Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania, Civic Alliance Party, Liberal Party, Social Democratic Party of Romania, Ecological Party of Romania, have sent the United States Congress a letter asking, in behalf of their parties, that it should sustain the granting to Romania of the most favoured nation [MFN] status.

They maintain that the granting of the MFN status may, among other things, sustain Romania's economic recovery and, by that, an easing of the population's poverty.

The authors of the letter note (this is ROMPRES translation of the text):

"On the other hand, the revigoration of the American-Romanian commercial relations would turn the economy, the whole Romanian society to the West, favouring Romania's natural and faster integration into the Euro-Atlantic area where it actually belongs, considering its culture, traditions and aspirations.

"Finally, the overcoming of the current economic difficulties, the consolidation of democracy also by an improved living standard of the population and Romania's integration in the Western (Euro-Atlantic) structures will turn our country into a factor of stability and a reliable ally of the United States in this region of Europe which is and will unfortunately be further upset by military and civil, religious and ethnic conflicts."

Negritoiu, German Official Discuss Assistance

AU0704110993 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0709 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 7/4/1993—Misu Negritoiu, minister and secretary of state, the head of the Romanian Council for Coordination, Strategy and Economic Reform received on 6 April a delegation of the Federal Ministry for Economic Collaboration of Germany, headed by Hans Peter Spani.

Issues were approached regarding the stage of the completion of the programme of economic assistance for Romania, financed by the German Government, which has started two years ago. Also examined were projects to be included in the programme which are to help economic restructuring, privatisation and the training of the personnel, while details were given on an assistance plan for the Private Property Fund in the county of Arad, concerning its operation and structures, and also on logistic assistance.

Iliescu Discusses Regional Issues

AU0704114793 Bucharest DIMINEATA Supplement in Romanian 3-4 Apr pp 2,3

[Interview with Romanian President Ion Iliescu, by Didier Vidal and Jean Dupre, from the French publication LA LETTRE DIPLOMATIQUE; place and date not given: "As Far as People's Lives Are Concerned, Citizens Enjoy Complete Freedom of Expression, Assembly and Organization and the Basic Rights and Freedoms Both of Romanians and of All Ethnic, Religious, and Political Minorities Are Guaranteed in Romania Today"]

[Text] [LA LETTRE DIPLOMATIQUE] Mr. President, now more than three years after the revolution, allow me to ask you what has changed in Romania.

[Iliescu] I can tell you that everything has changed. The social explosion that characterized the Romanian revolution took place in December 1989. In fact, this explosion was a reaction to the crisis in the system of Romanian society. This was part of a broader phenomenon in this European area, namely the failure of an inefficient economic system, and as a matter of fact inefficiency in all areas. However, in Romania it was perhaps even more acute. The totalitarian system stifled the entire political and social life. That is the reason for the explosive nature of the changes in Romania and the price paid in human lives.

After those events, as far as the political sphere is concerned, we moved from a totalitarian system to an open, democratic, and multiparty system. As far as the state is concerned, from a totalitarian system, from the personal dictatorship of a family, we moved to a state of law. We held the first free elections in May 1990 and had the first parliament, which at the same time was also the Constituent Assembly. Its major goal was to draft the new constitution. This activity was carried out in a democratic fashion: The commission worked for one and a half years to work out the draft constitution which, in the end, was adopted by the parliament and was then submitted to a national referendum.

On the basis of the new Constitution, local elections were held in February 1992 and then parliamentary and

presidential elections in September of the same year. Thus, we established all institutions that are characteristic of a democratic state, on the basis of the new Constitution, which is entirely comparable with the most modern constitutions at this time.

As far as people's lives are concerned, I believe that citizens enjoy complete freedom of expression, assembly and organization and the basic rights and freedoms both of Romanians and of all ethnic minorities are guaranteed in Romania today. Certainly, there is still much to be done, nevertheless, from the point of view of democratization I believe that Romanian society has changed completely and all changes are profound and irreversible.

The most complicated problems can be found in the economic area. We have decisively turned toward the market economy. However, the transition to the market economy has proved to be quite a complicated process. This can be noticed in all Eastern European countries. Maybe the process is more difficult in our case because we had a super-centralized system and a completely primitive and autarchical concept of economic development in the past 20 years. We witnessed the unjustified development of various economic branches and of big energy- and raw material-consuming industry. Under internal conditions connected with this process of transition—after the dissolution of the nationalized and super-centralized system, the decentralization of the economy and liberalization of prices, salaries, and foreign trade—several new difficulties appeared that sprang from the lack of mechanisms that are specific to the market economy. Some external difficulties were added to all this. The dissolution of the CEMA created additional difficulties for us because this was our major source of energy and raw material but also our major market for the products of Romanian industry. The crisis in the Gulf—where we had another oil source—and now the Yugoslav crisis created very serious complications.

The success of the process of economic transition is currently our government's major task.

[L.D.] Considering all this progress that you have mentioned regarding your country's political life, how do you explain a certain suspicion toward Romania and the postponement of its association with the Council of Europe?

[Iliescu] I think that all this is connected with the vestiges of the cold war. Because otherwise what would be the reason for the reticence in connection with Romania, compared with other East European countries or with Iliescu compared to Messrs. Kravchuk, Yeltsin, or Zhelev? What is happening here today is an objective process. We have a new reality in Europe. There is no longer that separation in military, ideological, or political blocs. And all political forces should be involved in this process of general European integration.

Within this context maybe it is the policy of protectionism, promoted by the rich of today, who create difficulties for the process of broadening world economic relations and for the integration process.

There are numerous problems in the world today. Therefore, all possible ways should be sought to expand cooperation instead of maintaining suspicion and subjective barriers.

I could say that in this period, that is, in the past three years, Romania has shown a sufficiently convincing openness, as far as its orientations and political options are concerned.

[L.D.] What do you think about the strategic evolution in Europe?

[Iliescu] We are entering a very important transition period as far as the problems of the general security and national security of each county are concerned.

Romania is working on the basis of a new concept, that of the general integration and joint security of all European countries. I believe that positive steps have been taken in this direction. As far as we are concerned, the new relations established with NATO, the Western European Union [WEU], and the European Community are decisive steps in this respect.

However, there is a general tension, mainly in this region, because changes that have taken place in certain countries have brought about new elements of ethnic tension, even wars. For example Yugoslavia, or the former Soviet Union, where there is political stability and new relations between republics have been established, all these phenomena taking place around us give cause for concern. We believe that the issue should not be approached through military means, instead solutions should be sought through general cooperation on a European and international scale and through political means. From this point of view we are looking forward with hope and complete openness to cooperation with European and North Atlantic security bodies. Today, we have positive relations with NATO, the WEU, and the European Community. As far as the United Nations is concerned, we believe that it will have to become a more active and more balanced presence in finding solutions to these problems.

[L.D.] How does the Yugoslav conflict affect Romania's security and its relations with the United Nations?

[Iliescu] There are two aspects here. The first is the problem posed by the Yugoslav conflict itself. We are concerned about limiting and ending this conflict because otherwise it might become a source of general tension. Its expansion would be dangerous for the European balance and security in general.

Likewise, I believe that the conflict in Bosnia has not been approached in a very realistic manner, because the realities in that republic, namely the fact that there are

three communities living there and they need a consensus among them in all areas, were not taken into consideration. This generated an explosion. Therefore, these problems will have to be examined very carefully in order to find a solution to them.

A second aspect is connected with direct Romanian-Serbian relations. We wish to maintain peaceful relations with our neighbors. Throughout history there has never been a moment of tension between our two countries and nations and there is a feeling, based on this historical tradition, of solidarity and sympathy. As a matter of fact, we are bound to them through a very important asset, namely the Iron Gate dam on the Danube, where we work together. It is a completely integrated unit, where anything short of very close cooperation between the specialists that work in the two electric power plants and sluices can be very dangerous. Thus, any element of tension with our neighbors can produce a material and ecological catastrophe. There is also this problem of the embargo. We have taken all necessary measures to observe the decisions taken by the United Nations. However, at the same time we must be careful. You have seen the past few days' events concerning the oil barges. Many people ask why the Romanians and Bulgarians could not stop them. From a technical point of view it is impossible. And it is also very dangerous from an ecological point of view. A crew that was in a desperate situation could have made some unreasonable move in the case of very strong measures. It would be enough if only one ship carrying oil is destroyed on the Danube... all the towns along the Danube get their water supply from the Danube. This would not only be an ecological catastrophe in general regarding the Danube Delta and the effects on it, but also a problem in the daily lives of those people whose only water source would be endangered. Therefore, all necessary measures have to be taken on one hand to observe the embargo and on the other hand to maintain correct relations with our neighbors in order to avoid a multidimensional catastrophe.

[L.D.] In what way do you think that nationalistic tensions pose a danger for Romania's security and for the security of the whole region?

[Iliescu] National feelings are always sharpened during moments of social, economic, and political crisis. We are traveling through a period of crisis, mainly a crisis of a social nature, because of the emergence of unemployment. Thus, relations between various communities have become more difficult.

Generally speaking, I believe that the only solution is the democratic one. The new Constitution, the entire current Romanian legislation, and our entire practice permit us to create adequate conditions not only for the demonstration of common rights for all citizens of Romania but also to ensure specific rights for each ethnic minority. Maybe we are a rare example in Europe and throughout the world, but all 14 minorities are represented in our parliament. They have the possibility to use their own mother tongue in school, to engage in their cultural and religious practices and to be present in all other areas.

I believe that on this basis we will be able to ensure the normal development of relations among all citizens of our country. However, there is always a certain susceptibility and we must pay close attention to it.

As far as our relations with Hungary are concerned—France had similar problems with Germany—history has proved that it is possible to promote cooperation under certain conditions.

We regret that there are certain forces that always want to use this issue of the Hungarian minority in Romania to maintain tension in relations between the two states. We believe that the joint interests of the two states are much more important. Our national economies are complementary and there is historical tradition in our neighborly relations. Therefore, we believe that we can find a platform of understanding and all sensitive problems that represent different viewpoints can be approached in a normal fashion, in a political and diplomatic way. In this respect we are currently engaged in drafting the good neighborliness and friendship treaty.

As far as Moldova is concerned, the situation is different. Here we are not talking about nationality or relations with ethnic minorities. The Republic of Moldova, meaning the new state that appeared after the dismantling of the Soviet Union, is a territory of the Romanians, a part of the historical province of Moldavia. The original citizens of the Republic of Moldova are Romanians. They represent 65 percent of Moldova's population. There are also other ethnics in Moldova, such as Russians and Ukrainians, who make up the rest of the population. Therefore, that is a different issue, the relations between the two states, namely Romania and the Republic of Moldova, have their own characteristics. There are also domestic problems in the Republic of Moldova connected with the special situation of Russians there. Russians used to represent the dominant nation of the Soviet Union and have become an ethnic minority in the new republics. Thus a Russian minority appeared in the Baltic countries, in Moldova, in Ukraine and in the countries in the Caucasus, Asia and other parts. In this way a new problem emerged and a new source of internal tension.

As far as relations between our two countries are concerned, we believe that on the one hand we have to regard them in a normal manner, thus allowing the process of stabilization of this independent state named the Republic of Moldova to develop, and on the other hand, we must favor the development of natural relations between Romania and the Republic of Moldova. Formerly there was no possibility for direct relations between us. Our relations had to "go through" Moscow. Now there is a new framework in which relations are easier to establish and we want to continue in this direction.

[L.D.] Do you think that the Danube will be able to play a role in getting the interests of Romania and Hungary closer to one another?

[Iliescu] Today the Yugoslav conflict prevents this. However, we are optimistic and believe that in one way or another, this moment of tension in the Yugoslav area will be overcome, especially now that there is a connection between the Black Sea and the North Sea, between Constanta and Rotterdam, namely the Danube-Main-Rhine trans-European waterway. There is thus another possibility to broaden the general European integration through cooperation facilitated by this waterway.

[L.D.] Romania has its own way of looking at the situation of the Hungarian minority. Could you tell us a few words about the educational problems because there is a state of tension at Cluj University.

[Iliescu] I believe that in connection with this issue, we should pay close attention to the specific features of each country. France, for example, does not have this problem of organizing specific education for all its ethnic minorities. The language of education is French. However, we should take into consideration the historical circumstances of our country. Therefore, we organized education in the language of various ethnic minorities, which represent 10 percent of Romania's population of 23 million inhabitants. The Hungarians, the largest ethnic minority, represents 7 percent of the population, namely 1.7 million people. They live mainly in Transylvania but also in Bucharest, where there are 30-40,000 Hungarians. There is elementary, middle, and even high school education in the Hungarian language. There is not only the practice of studying the Hungarian language and literature, but there are entire educational courses in the Hungarian language at Cluj University as well as at other universities.

The only dispute in Cluj is related to the issue of whether or not to separate that university, with one for Romanians and another for Hungarians. The Romanians do not agree to this. This solution might lead to the "bantustanization" of the Hungarians. Why should we do that? Let us look at this issue in a realistic manner! There are several possibilities for this ethnic minority to use the mother tongue even in higher education, in university, something that the Romanians or other minorities in Hungary do not have. In Hungary you will find only one high school for Romanians where Romanian language is being taught. That is a very different situation. But we do not lecture others. But others should not lecture us either.

[L.D.] On the issue of settling the situation of ethnic minorities and borders, has any progress been registered in the discussions held with the Hungarian Government?

[Iliescu] Officially there are no territorial claims. However, there are political forces that raise this issue. Since Trianon, one-third of Hungary's population has been living in other countries. But the same can be said about other countries as well. We have 7 million Romanians living outside our borders. Thus, we must be realistic. In connection with Transylvania, the demographic map shows that the majority of the population are Romanian nationals. There are only 1 and ½ million Hungarians in Transylvania. Thus, one cannot raise the issue of modifying borders in order to homogenize the demographic picture. This is not the solution to the problem. Within this framework normal demographic relations should be developed in all countries so that ethnic minorities can have all possibilities and guarantees for their specific affirmation, for their dignity. Obviously, economic and social problems represent a large part of the citizens' worries.

[L.D.] In connection with the Republic of Moldova, Romania wishes to unite with it....

[Iliescu] The problem is more delicate. On the one hand there is such an aspiration. There was this brutal act, namely the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact, which was the basis for the occupation of a part of Romania's territory by the Soviet Union in the forties. That was based on a previous occupation by czarist Russia in 1812 of a part of the historical Moldavian province of Bessarabia. As a result of the Russian-Turkish war at the beginning of the previous century, before Napoleon's offensive, Russia obtained this territory from Turkey. Turkey had no right to give away something that did not belong to it. The statute of the Romanian principalities within the Ottoman Empire was completely different from that of Bulgaria, Serbia, and even of Hungary. Those "pashaliks" were considered as territories of the Ottoman Empire. The two Romanian principalities had their territorial sovereignty, and were only subordinated to the Ottoman Empire, as the Ottoman Empire's vassals. This means that the Russian occupation was in no way rightful, the same applies to the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact. That is where the normal and legitimate aspiration of the Romanians for territorial integrity emerges. However, today this is not a realistic issue within the general European accords. We must take into consideration the general rules for the administration of frontiers and territories of European states. That is why we did not raise the issue of the integration of all territories. And because the subject is not limited only to the issue of the Republic of Moldova. There is a part of Romanian territory in Ukraine, too. And we cannot think about a settlement through force or other means. This is an issue that history will settle in the future, through the general development of relations on the European continent.

[L.D.] Do you have the impression that the European Community is playing an efficient role in these issues?

[Iliescu] I believe that the general development on our continent and the integration in European institutions will be able to create the normal framework for relations among all European states, particularly among countries in this region.

[L.D.] How do you view the role played today by the CIS states in various problems that concern Romania and the entire area?

[Iliescu] The relations among the new states that have emerged from the former Soviet Union raise the question of the stability of the system. This issue is of interest not only to the member states of this community but also to general stability in Europe, moreover, to international stability. On the one hand, there is a tendency to reestablish the imperial framework to achieve stronger and more controlled ties with the former Soviet republics. On the other hand, one can see this tendency toward the consolidation of the independence of those states. I believe that ultimately a solution will be found, based on new relations and on the development of economic relations, taking into consideration traditions and the complementary character of the economies of these countries. It is normal, even for us, to reestablish relations with countries in this area because the former Soviet Union was for us an important source of raw material and energy and also the major market for our industrial products. Therefore, we are interested in political normalization on the one hand and economic normalization on the other hand, in order to reestablish traditional ties because today we do not have another alternative to that market. Other countries are also interested in the huge Russian market, even the developed West European countries, the United States, Japan and many other countries. When Romania achieves a general normalization of its situation, it will be able to offer foreign investors an interesting geostrategic position in this area.

[L.D.] Talking in geographical terms, what are the priorities of Romania's economic cooperation with the Pentagonale, the Central European Initiative, the Black Sea Area, and the EEC...?

[Iliescu] We are interested in diversifying and expanding our international relations in all directions. Our priorities are connected with the goal to integrate in the general European framework in order to develop economic relations throughout the continent.

In connection with this priority objective, we believe that developing regional relations is a necessary action. In this spirit we regard the new possibilities for the Danube area that have been created through the Danube-Main-Rhine trans-European waterway. The meeting of the 11 countries was held last year when the treaty on developing an economic cooperation zone was signed. The action is at variance with European economic integration. It is a necessary step and a useful contribution to the general integration. This area is interesting, it has great natural and human resources, and can become a very important market for all countries.

[L.D.] Recently one can note an intensification of French-Romanian relations, even as far as summit meetings are concerned. How do you feel about French-Romanian relations?

[Iliescu] Romania has always had priority relations with France. We are bound by an entire history. France has always helped us and supported our aspirations to assert our independence and to establish the unitary Romanian state. We have strong cultural relations. We are a francophone country and members of the francophone community. There are sentimental relations between our countries, there are political ties, and there is a particular interest to support the development of bilateral relations in all spheres: political, economic, cultural, scientific, and other areas.

At the same time, we highly value the support that France has granted us lately for the integration in the general European system, mainly in connection with the European Community and its institutions. France supported the accord signed on 1 February 1993 by the Romanian prime minister with the European Community. Likewise, France is our greatest supporter in negotiations regarding our association with the Council of Europe. We appreciate it very much and we believe that our relations with France will always be a national priority for us.

Izetbegovic Addresses Nation on War Anniversary

LD0604221393 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Address to nation by President Alija Izetbegovic—recorded]

[Text] Today, 6 April, I address the citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina as we are marking this tragic anniversary of aggression against our country. One year has elapsed since the aggressor's forces launched their mass attack on Bosnia-Herzegovina. Today, we see the consequences.

This evil unleashed on Bosnia-Herzegovina has not receded yet. The former Yugoslav People's Army, that is, the army of the so-called Yugoslavia, is now continuing the long series of crimes which started in Kosovo, then in Slovenia, Croatia, and today in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In addition to the forces of the regular army, we have also been attacked by all kinds of paramilitary formations of the Serbian Democratic Party, whose brutality cannot be compared with [words indistinct], those who [words indistinct] defend the people, they aimed their arms at the people, at the people who had enabled them to become one of Europe's most powerful military forces. [passage indistinct] a total of 170,000 dead, mainly dead civilians, unfortunately mainly women and children, the very young children, then 700,000 displaced people, and the material destruction in Bosnia-Herzegovina [word indistinct] to tens of billions of dollars.

Nevertheless, the loss of human life is the most serious side of this misfortune, because it is most painful and irreparable for our people.

If anything good can be remembered about the year behind us, then it is surely the fact that, even in this utterly unequal struggle and (?starting with) a fully occupied country, we have managed to liberate a significant part of its territory. This is almost half of the territory on which the majority of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina live.

Although alone in this struggle, and indeed abandoned by the world community in some sense—because where the right to self-defense is concerned, we in Bosnia-Herzegovina have reached a high degree of organisation of our defense forces, which include the country's best people, irrespective of creed and nationality. Many of them paid for their patriotism with the highest price. A large number of defenders in the armed forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina have been killed in the struggle.

We have achieved a victory in some sense. Someone said that every intact town, every intact village is our victory. And this is true, and the world admires our achievement in the defense of our suffering country.

The international community, as you know, has provided humanitarian aid to the people, or better to say the peoples, the citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina, but the international community has failed in some sense. In fact, Bosnia-Herzegovina has tested the ability of the world community to defend its fundamental principles. Hence, together with the gratitude for humanitarian aid, a bitter feeling will be left that as far as this last matter is concerned, the international community has not passed a test.

The complete destruction of normal life in our country has not broken us, and Bosnia-Herzegovina has survived, lived through the last year, not forgetting even cultural and creative activities.

Each citizen has to oppose (?the evil) in the best way known to him, while the task of the government of this country is to enable him to do that in the best possible way. Our primary task and all our efforts will be directed to this goal: that all those citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina who have been evicted from their homes should return home as soon as possible. That represents the defense of sanctity called human freedom, i.e. the charter on human liberties which is one of the fundamental charters of the United Nations.

The tragedy of Srebrenica that we have been witnessing over the past few days, which we have been trying to alleviate in all possible ways, is evidence that the aggressors have not changed their nature; on the contrary, the logic of force which has been guiding their actions is leading them to further violence wherever they can perpetrate it. At the same time, our fundamental orientation is the struggle for freedom, but a freedom in which the freedom and dignity of every individual will be respected, a freedom in which the flame of what we call the soul of Bosnia will be maintained, and that is the name of the idea on which this country has been based for centuries.

Bosnia has hit the world headlines. Unfortunately, in a tragic way. We wish that with the help of all our citizens, both those in the country and those temporarily evicted, temporarily absent, and also those permanently residing abroad, that our country will become the symbol of what is behind us, a year of aggression, a tragedy, but also of hope and a harmonious and normal life in our Bosnia-Herzegovina. So these are the thoughts with which we are bidding our farewell to the year behind us, a year of aggression, a tragedy, but also of hope and our successes. Thank you.

Serbs Allow Morillon to Visit Srebrenica

LD0804110993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1042 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 8 Apr (TANJUG)—Bosnian Serb authorities will allow the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] commander in Bosnia-Herzegovina, French General Philippe Morillon, to go to Srebrenica, TANJUG was told today by the UNPROFOR Headquarters in Belgrade.

"We understand that the Serbs have let Morillon go to Srebrenica escorted by two vehicles and nine soldiers,"

the UNPROFOR stated. Morillon left Sarajevo for Srebrenica with four armored personnel carriers yesterday.

According to information available to the peacekeeping forces, the cease-fire is mainly holding in Bosnia-Herzegovina, with the exception of Srebrenica. [passage omitted]

1,600 To Be Evacuated

LD0704225293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2204 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Sarajevo, 7 Apr (TANJUG)—The Muslim authorities in Srebrenica announced today that they will eventually allow the evacuation of 1,600 women and children from this town, the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] representative in Sarajevo has stated.

Quoting UN military observers in Srebrenica, the UN representative said that the Muslim authorities said that the evacuation is to begin tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Morillon Sets Off

AU0704124393 Paris AFP in English 1232 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Sarajevo, April 7 (AFP)—French General Philippe Morillon left Sarajevo for the besieged eastern Bosnian town of Srebrenica Wednesday [7 April] in a bid to prevent it falling to attacking Serb forces.

Morillon, the commander of the U.N. Protection Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, will be joined by a company of Canadian U.N. troops who plan to barge their way in despite lack of agreement by the Serbs, a statement indicated.

Morillon left Sarajevo at about 2:00 p.m. (1200 GMT) with four armoured personnel carriers, an UNPROFOR officer told AFP.

On Road for Bratunac

AU0804084093 Paris AFP in English 0719 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Sarajevo, April 8 (AFP)—French General Philippe Morillon was rolling toward the eastern Bosnian town of Srebrenica in a five-vehicle armoured convoy Thursday [8 April] after being halted overnight by Serbs at Sokolac, 50 kilometres (30 miles) from Sarajevo.

Morillon, the commander of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina, left soon after first light, said Major Michel Marvie, a spokesman for the UNPROFOR.

The general, accompanied by communications experts and a wide mix of communications systems, was heading for Bratunac, an eastern Serb-held town close to the Drina river border with Serbia.

There, according to Commander Barry Frewer, the chief UNPROFOR spokesman, "he will try to negotiate further movement and the way in" to Srebrenica, 10 kilometres (six miles) farther south.

About 150 Canadian UNPROFOR troops in armoured convoys are also trying to get into Srebrenica from their base at Visoko, 30 kilometres (18 miles) nothwest of Sarajevo.

Marvie said an advance party of 20 Canadians had reached Tuzla, 90 kilometres (56 miles) northwest of Srebrenica.

The remaining 130 men would head out from Visoko once the advance party had reached Srebrenica, Marvie said.

Morillon put Srebrenica under his personal protection during a two-week stay there last month, and civilian authorities agreed Wednesday to allow an initial evactuation of 1,600 wounded, elderly, women and children after Morillon left Sarajevo to return.

The town, its population swollen to some 30,000 by refugees, is surrounded by Serb forces battling troops of the mainly Moslem Bosnian army despite a 12-day-old ceasefire.

UNPROFOR said Wednesday that the situation there was "deteriorating."

Sarajevo radio had no new information early Thursday on the fighting.

Serb Refugees From Tuzla Arrive in Bijeljina

LD0704230593 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2143 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Bijeljina, 7 Apr (TANJUG)—Shortly after 2100 a new group of about 40 sick and elderly Serbs from Tuzla, including citizens of FRY, arrived in Bijeljina. The group included one Macedonian man and an Albanian woman from Kosovo.

The refugees from Tuzla had left the village of Sibosnica, some 30 km from Tuzla, late this afternoon. A meeting of two commissions for the exhange of prisoners—from Semberija and Tuzla—was held in Sibosnica today. [passage omitted]

At today's meeting of the two commissions for prisoner exchange in Sibosnica it was agreed to open a permanent corridor in the near future allowning free movement of civilians between Bijeljina and Tuzla. [passage omitted]

UNHCR Spokesman Backs Call for UN Troops in Srebrenica

AU0704115693 Paris AFP in English 1135 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Sarajevo, April 7 (AFP)—The United Nations is to try again Thursday [8 April] to truck refugees out of the besieged eastern Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica, a U.N. spokesman said here Wednesday.

A spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said the UNHCR would make another attempt Thursday to truck refugees out of Srebrenica, where

some 30,000 Moslem civilians are huddled in a town which had a prewar population of 6,500.

Civilian authorities in the town have blocked all recent attempts to evacuate civilians, demanding that U.N. troops be deployed there to deter the attacking Serbs.

Spokesman John McMillan backed that demand Wednesday, saying a company of U.N. troops would reduce tensions.

Fewer people might want to leave as a result, he said, and their presence might reduce attacks on the town.

McMillan said Thursday's plan was to have 18 trucks leave Belgrade for Srebrenica, with nine of them—empty—stopping near Bratunac, 10 kilometres six miles) north of Srebrenica and close to the Drina River border with Serbia.

The other nine trucks—fully loaded—would deliver aid, then take evacuees back to the other trucks, where they would be redistributed to avoid overcrowding.

He said the UNHCR would also try to bring 10 buses to Zvornik, about half-way to Tuzla, or to nearby front lines. Some of the evacuees would be transferred there, he said.

Police Block Parts of Sarajevo To Carry Out Tasks

AU0704144093 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] After several telephone calls from Sarajevo citizens warning us that some parts of the city have been blocked and passage made impossible, we turned to the Bosnia-Herzegovina Ministry of Internal Affairs.

We have learned from Ismet Dahic, deputy minister for police, that members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs police are carrying out tasks in accordance with the law in certain parts of the city and, because of those tasks, are preventing lingering and passage through those parts until official tasks have been completed.

Stoltenberg Wants To 'Contribute' to Peace

AU0704120293 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 4 Apr 93 pp 1, 5

[Interview with Thorvald Stoltenberg, new cochairman of the conference on the former Yugoslavia, by Zorana Suvakovic; place and date not given: "I Assumed One of the Most Difficult Duties"]

[Text] "If I had said no to Butrus Butrus-Ghali, that answer would have haunted my conscience for the rest of my life. I realized that I had to accept this difficult assignment if the secretary general of the United Nations thought that I could contribute to finding a peaceful solution," said Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg, who takes over the duty of cochairman from Cyrus Vance on 1 May, in his interview to POLITIKA.

The Norwegian, who keeps close contacts with many our people dating from the time he served in Yugoslavia (1961-1964), claims that Yugoslavs in the former Yugoslavia loved their country the same way that Norwegians do and that the two peoples have had close connections since World War II.

Stoltenberg wants to "contribute" to finding an acceptable solution for all the peoples in the former Yugoslavia. That is his "vision and the greatest ambition." He is aware that he is going to encounter great difficulties in performing his duty.

He does not want to speak to the media about his plans and ideas before he officially begins his new duty; however, he reminds us of the fact that Norway split from Sweden and Denmark without a drop of blood and that those three countries are closer today than any other countries.

We phoned Stoltenberg in his house in Oslo. Thanks to our former prisoners in German detention camps in Norway during World War II, with whom he has kept in contact all these years, Stoltenberg agreed to give an interview to POLITIKA, although he refused all other journalists who have besieged him since the day before yesterday.

[Suvakovic] You served as a diplomat in Yugoslavia 30 years ago. Your youngest daughter was born in Belgrade. Many of your friends call you Tosa and say that you and your family really loved Yugoslavia. Can you describe your personal feelings toward the former Yugoslavia and toward Yugoslavia nowadays?

Yugoslavs "Physically" Loved Their Country

[Stoltenberg] During my service in Belgrade, my whole family became very close to many people from all parts of the former Yugoslavia. We traveled throughout the country; we went everywhere.... It is a beautiful country, but the most beautiful part of it was the people. We did not perceive then that there were differences among the people from different parts of the country. For instance—I refer to the former Yugoslavia—I noticed on those journeys that all the former Yugoslavs "physically" loved their country. They loved each stone, cliff, field, mountain, old walnut.... The Norwegians are the same. They also love nature and feel the same physical love toward their country. When we return from a trip and see our cliffs and fjords, only then do we feel that we are home again and warmth fills us, no matter how cold it is.

[Suvakovic] Vance said that he was leaving the most difficult duty in his life. You are a successful man; you

performed many responsible duties. Why did you decide to take this job that is most certainly not an easy one?

[Stoltenberg] I agree with you. It is one of the most difficult duties that exist today. However, if the secretary general of the United Nations thinks that I could contribute to finding a peaceful solution, then such an offer, as I believe, should not and must not be rejected. If I had said no, that answer would have haunted my conscience for the rest of my life. I did not want to have that on my conscience. I want to assure you, however, that I am aware of the huge difficulties that await me in this job.

[Suvakovic] As a former high commissioner for refugees with the United Nations, you are quite aware of the immense problem of millions of desperate people here. Do you believe that the world will have the strength and possibilities to help the refugees from the former Yugoslavia?

[Stoltenberg] To help the refugees in the 1990's and in the 21st century means to concentrate as many resources close to their homes as possible. That is what those people want and I think that is what the world should tend to—that is, to provide as many resources as possible as close as possible to the former homes of those people.

[Suvakovic] Norway split from Sweden without a drop of blood being shed. Do you believe that before the war started the "Scandinavization" of Yugoslavia could have been a better solution?

[Stoltenberg] I do not want to discuss that problem right now. First, I want to thoroughly prepare myself for the new duty that starts on 1 May.

I can only confirm what you have just said. We parted without shedding blood and today Norway is much closer to Sweden and Denmark than any other country, although Norway had been under Denmark for 400 years, and 100 years under Sweden.

[Suvakovic] Still, how would you assess current relations with the Scandinavian countries? Are there any concerns?

[Stoltenberg] Generally, there are not any problems. Of course, there are some practical misunderstandings sometimes, which always happens among neighbors but they are not so significant to impact on our closeness.

Alternative Is Terrible

[Suvakovic] Some Norwegians play many important roles in the efforts made by the international community to solve the crisis in the former Yugoslavia. Is that only a coincidence or do you have some other explanation?

[Stoltenberg] Since World War II, Norwegians have had close contacts with the Yugoslav peoples. Norwegians and Yugoslavs struck up their friendship when your people, having been German prisoners in detention camps throughout Norway, were going through the most formidable days. That friendship and closeness have been nurtured and developed ever since. We are bound together by the fact that we love our countries, as I have already said. It is natural that Norwegians are very worried and interested in the course of events in the former Yugoslavia. That could be one of the reasons why Norwegians have been assigned such difficult tasks.

[Suvakovic] How do you see the territory of the former Yugoslavia, as well as the former Yugoslavs, in 10 years? What is your vision or perhaps dream?

[Stoltenberg] I want to contribute to a peaceful and satisfying solution for all the peoples in the former Yugoslavia. That is my dream and my greatest ambition.

[Suvakovic] Foreign news agencies say that you have an equal amount of understanding for reasons of all the warring factions. Is there, however, something that you cannot understand?

[Stoltenberg] I have to say that until the clashes started, I never could have believed that it could be possible, although I have many friends and acquaintances. I was never able to understand my friends that something like this was still possible, even though they have been telling me this for quite some time.

[Suvakovic] One last question: Are we going to achieve peace?

[Stoltenberg] Yes, because the alternative is terrible.

[Box, p 5]

[Tomanovic] Toso, should I congratulate you or sympathize with you?

[Stoltenberg] You should congratulate me.

[Tomanovic] Alright then, I want you to give us peace and I want the Nobel Prize for yourself, the one awarded in Oslo.

The following telephone conversation took place yesterday between Milutin Tomanovic and Stoltenberg, called Toso by friends from the Yugoslav-Norwegian Society.

Tomanovic, who currently lives in the home for the aged in Bezanijska Kosa [Belgrade precinct], did not forget the Norwegian language that he learned while he was detained in German camps in Norway. He has been a close friend of Stoltenberg for almost 30 years.

"Any Yugoslav visiting Oslo had to call on the Stoltenbergs. Many of our people even stayed in his house," Tomanovic says.

Petar Krasulja, also a former prisoner, claims that Stoltenberg is a man who would never deceive anyone. "He is a lasting and reliable friend," he says.

Stoltenberg (61) has three children—Camilla, (?Yens), and the youngest daughter Nini, who was born in Belgrade.

Among many details about these long friendships, we single out the following one. Once, when Tomanovic and Stoltenberg argued over some political issues, Tomanovic was bold enough to say: "After all, what do you know about all that?"

At first the Norwegian kept silent, then he exploded: "Listen you, I have more friends here in Cukarica [Belgrade precinct] than you have ever had."

General Mladic Comments on Situation in Republic

AU0704181493 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1657 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Interview with Ratko Mladic, commander of the army of the Serbian republic in Bosnia-Herzegovina, by Slavoljub Slijepcevic; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mladic] If you have carefully followed the situation, approximately 30 brigades have been mobilized in Croatia recently with a total [word indistinct] of 65,000 Ustashas [Croats] and 6,000 Homeguards organized in regiments. They have already carried out operative deployment and grouping of their troops. They concentrated eight brigades toward eastern Slavonia and Baranja, where they deployed their main forces, six brigades, toward Baranja and two toward [word indistinct]. South of the Sava river, in the region of Komarevo and the wider Sisak area, they engaged the 120th and 161st brigades with approximately 60 T-35 tanks. Three brigades are positioned in the region of Karlovac, ready to attack on the line Karlovac-Duga Resa-[words indistinct] and so forth. These are the 110th, 129th, and (?131st) brigades of the Croatian Army.

Four brigades have been brought to western Slavonia—the 123rd, 125th, 127th, 105th Bjelovar. They are directed toward Novska and Nova Gradiska. Their main forces are approximately 15 to 20 kilometers away from the current separating line. They are undergoing extensive preparations for offensive activities.

In northern Dalmatia, that is toward Obrovac, Benkovac, and Knin, they engaged six brigades—the 4th, 118th, 112th, 134th, 153rd, and 113th which had disintegrated [words indistinct], and they are now preparing it for combat. In Dalmatia they have great problems with desertion as the Dalmatians do not want to die for the crazy ideas of [Croatian President] Franjo Tudjman. In the wider Dubrovnik area and on the front around Trebinje and in the lower Neretva Valley they engaged the 114th, 115th, 145th, and 163rd Brigades. The 6th Brigade of the National Guard Corps and one Homeguard regiment are situated in the direction from (?Drinj) toward [word indistinct] and Gospic. Another two [word indistinct] brigades are deployed in the wider region of Gorski Kotar.

Not to tire you further with other figures, all this means that Croatia has carried out extensive mobilization and operative deployment. They even moved part of the Croatian General Staff. With a new attack against the Serbian people they will probably try to achieve something similar as they did in the attack at the zones under the protection of the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR], in Maslenica bridge and Zemunik airport.

[Slijepcevic] There is also a threat of international intervention beside these threats to the Serbian people. How do you assess the possibility that the international troops actually become involved in the resolving of the crisis, not only in former Bosnia-Herzegovina but also in Krajina?

[Mladic] A part of the international troops is involved comprehensively, I would say, in the war Calvary of the Serbian people on these territories. They are primarily involved through their wholehearted support, especially by the countries of the Germanic block and some Islamic countries that had armed the Croats and Muslims and are still arming them, violating the arms embargo via humanitarian organizations like Caritas, Merhamet, and unfortunately, in individual regions, also via troops that were under the pretext of protecting humanitarian convoys loaned to the International Red Cross of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. This is the case in Cazin Krajina where a Spanish, sorry, a French battalion is not in the function of UNPROFOR troops but has been leased out, and where an increasingly larger amount of arms and ammunition is being brought to Cazin Krajina via some members of this battalion. In a similar fashion this is also supplied to other regions, and even to Sarajevo.

[Slijepcevic] I had direct engagement of military potential in mind.

[Mladic] Well, military potential is involved in supplying the Muslim and Ustasha formations on the territory of Gorazde, Srebrenica, and Zepa. Not only are they catering to their various needs with convoys, via land and via air, they are even planning the so-called airlift operation aimed at evacuating wounded Ustashas who had butchered the Serbian people in Bihac.

[Slijepcevic] It is well known that Turkey plays a certain role in the war in former Bosnia-Herzegovina. How do you see its participation and meddling into the resolution of the crisis?

[Mladic] You ask a very interesting question. I believe that Turkey today perhaps occupies a central place. The Turkish offer that [passage indistinct]. The army of the Serbian republic on the territory of former Bosnia-Herzegovina consists of [word indistinct] troops, the total of 80 percent. Turkey particularly got involved into the crisis on the territories of former Bosnia-Herzegovina after the visit by [Turkish President] Turgut Ozal to Zagreb, the contacts in Sarajevo, and so forth, because he is trying to save the Muslims in former Bosnia-Herzegovina in all possible ways. However, (?he will) not help them, and neither will his allies if they continue to wage the war. Only peace can help them and the Croats on the battlefields.

Army Commander Wants East Bosnia Under Serb Control

AU0804081993 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 5 Apr 93 p 4

[Interview with Milan Gvero, deputy commander of the army of the Serbian republic in Bosnia-Herzegovina, by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "We Are Not Giving Serbian Land Away"]

[Text] [BORBA] The arrival of almost 60,000 troops, or three divisions, of which one could be a division form the United States, has been mentioned.

[Gvero] As far as we are concerned, there is no need for them to come here at all. Actually, there would be a need for that if a peace agreement was signed and all fighting stopped. They could then place themselves between the warring sides. However, for this they would need precise orders, very precise parameters to prevent incidents which, of course, it would be the Serbian side and not the perpetrators, that would be accused.

[BORBA] What do you think about General Mladic's idea of the demilitarization of east Bosnia starting in Srebrenica?

[Gvero] The Muslim forces have been carrying out extensive pogroms in the Drina basin region for some time. Since 7 January, the drive has aimed at destroying almost everything with the "Serbian" precursor. When we found ourselves in a situation to liberate a large chunk of the territory in this region, from the military point of view, to create a situation in which the criminals would be caught, the protectors of these criminals suddenly appeared on the scene.

We are indeed creating conditions for women and children to be rescued and the elderly, sick, and wounded to leave this area if they choose to. If they do not want to do that, then we will guarantee them everything that is promised to other populations. However, we want those who caused massacres to be called to account, that this area be placed under Serbian control, and to create conditions in which such massacres of the Serbian people will never happen again.

[BORBA] Do you see the end of the war and what is, in your view, a possible denouement?

[Gvero] If we sincerely wanted peace, if the international community in particular wanted peace and it stopped meddling and being biased, I am convinced that peace would indeed be established very soon. In any case, we will not use force against the territories that are traditionally not ours.

Serbian Air Force Commander Views No-Fly Ban

AU0704181693 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1705 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Interview with General Zivomir Ninkovic, commander of the Air Force of the Serbian republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, by Dragan Mihovic; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ninkovic] To be honest, since resolutions are being made on almost a daily basis, or weekly, whenever they please, I no longer follow them nor think about them. Those who are going to be bothered by them should think about them. Let them think about it.

On the other hand, speaking about peace and the concept of peace, while at the same time adopting a resolution on the use of force, is an absolute paradox, a world paradox, unprecedented.

[Mihovic] Do you think that all these flights under the pretext of humanitarian aid are actually the introduction to possible flights with fighter aircraft?

[Ninkovic] My deputy and I spoke about it about six or seven days ago. This is well known. Humanitarian aid here has several aspects. It cannot be simplified to mean only this. Of course, the flights have been used for reconnaissance, surveillance, and training to fly in our skies, view territory, and so forth.

[Mihovic] If such flights, military flights, do take place, will you fly, too?

[Ninkovic] We will always fly when we decide to do so and when we are attacked, and when we need to defend our people. We have the right to do this.

Interior Ministry Says Srebrenica Attacked From FRY

AU0704191693 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] The Bosnia-Herzegovina Ministry of Internal Affairs holds verified reports that a general aggression against the free territory of our country is being waged daily from Serbia.

In the course of this, Srebrenica was shelled fiercely from Serbian territory on the evening of 6 April. The headquarters of the UN Protection Force in Sarajevo has been notified accordingly.

A forced mobilization of the Gorazde residents who had fled earlier to Serbia and Montenegro has been carried out in these two republics in the last few days. This mobilization was preceded by threats that their families would be arrested and that they would remain without humanitarian aid and employment if they failed to respond to the calls. The Gorazde residents mobilized in this way are attacking the free territory of Visegrad and Gorazde now together with the local chetniks and Russian mercenaries.

Krajina Delegation Explains Nonsigning of Cease-Fire

LD0704162493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1428 GMT 78 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, 7 Apr (TANJUG)—The Foreign Ministry of the republic of Serb Krajina issued a statement today saying that the republic of Serb Krajina delegation refused to accept a draft cease-fire agreement at the Geneva negotiations because "the delegation was not authorized by its assembly to put its signature on an agreement with such content."

The statement signed by Slobodan Jarcevic, foreign minister of the republic of Serb Krajina, says that the republic of Serb Krajina delegation "by initialling the draft agreement, only assumed an obligation to send it to its assembly for examination," and that point 7 of the draft says that "the agreement comes into force when both sides announce that they have accepted it."

The foreign ministry of the republic of Serb Krajina goes on to say that the Krajina delegation at the Geneva negotiations "demanded the unconditional withdrawal of the Croatian Army and police from occupied territories, while Croatia demanded the reestablishment of its authority over them."

The statement sent to TANJUG says the Croatian delegation fully accepted the draft agreement which was offered by Lord Owen, cochairman of the conference on former Yugoslavia, in Geneva yesterday and that "the republic of Serb Krajina delegation refused to do so because it has not been authorized by its assembly to put its signature on an agreement with such content."

"Following this objection by the republic of Serb Krajina delegation, Lord Owen accepted that the republic of Serb Krajina Assembly pass a decision on the draft agreement," the statement says.

The foreign ministry of the republic of Serb Krajina also said that "following two months of negotiations with the cochairmen of the conference on former Yugoslavia, the Krajina and Croatian sides have not brought their views closer regarding the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 802."

Krajina Not Prepared To Cede Any Part of Territory

LD0604130393 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1130 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Geneva, 6 Apr (TANJUG)—A delegation of the republic of Serb Krajina [RSK] headed by President Goran Hadzic has begun talks in Geneva today with Lord Owen and his closest associates to discuss the latest proposal of the conference cochairmen on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 802. Before the beginning of the talks, Goran Hadzic told TANJUG that any solution implying the handing over of part of Krajina's territory is unacceptable. "If the cochairmen insist that the Krajina police should not return to the areas from which the Croatian Army and police is to withdraw, such a proposal will be rejected," Hadzic stressed specifying that his Assembly has not authorized him to accept such a proposal. Hadzic believes that the Serb side has made enough concessions by being ready to allow UN Protection Forces [UNPROFOR] to take control of the most important facilities—the Maslenica bridge, the Peruca dam, and Zemunik airport—and to withdraw its police force from these facilities.

The latest proposal by cochairmen Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen envisages that Croatia should withdraw its police and army units from the territories which it attacked in January, that UNPROFOR should take control over these areas and carry out administrative duties until a political solution is found. At the same time, the Serb side should allow the peace forces to supervise its heavy artillery, and should not deploy its police force in the territory from which Croatia is to withdraw. The issue of the deployment of police forces has always been a bone of contention in the talks on Krajina because the presence of police also brings control over the territory where the police are located.

A Croatian delegation had brief consultations with the conference cochairmen this morning, but no official statement has been issued so far. As has been learned, another meeting between the cochairmen and representatives of Croatia, and possibly of Serb Krajina, has been announced for today.

Gunmen Kill 2 UN Soldiers in Serb-Controlled Banija

AU0804092893 Paris AFP in English 0919 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, April 8 (AFP)—Two Nigerian peacekeepers of the United Nations Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia died and another was wounded when unidentified gunmen opened fire at a UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] checkpoint in Croatia, UNPROFOR announced Thursday [8 April].

The attack came in the village of Bojna in the Serb-controlled Banija region.

Federal

Churkin Makes Statement Following Talks With Milosevic

LD0704193293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1743 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, 7 Apr (TANJUG)—Following talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Vitaliy Churkin, Russian deputy foreign minister and special Russian mediator for the Bosnian crisis, neither confirmed nor denied that he came from Moscow with a fresh initiative to resolve the Bosnian conflict.

"I did not say that I was coming with a fresh initiative, nor that there will be changes in the Vance-Owen plan," Churkin noted in a statement for the press. He recalled that the meeting with Slobodan Milosevic today was the third in the past week and that today they had talks on the current problems concentrating on the Bosnian crisis.

In that context, he said that "the situation is volatile" and that this evening he is to meet Dr. Radovan Karadzic, president of the Serb republic [in Bosnia-Herzegovina], estimating that this will be "a very long talk." Further on, he is to have talks with Dobrica Cosic, president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Regarding negotiations on Bosnia, Churkin said that consultations between the main international factors are continuing and that the aim is to find a peaceful solution to the Bosnian conflict.

Asked whether Russian President Yeltsin will receive Radovan Karadzic who is to visit Moscow soon, Churkin avoided replying, saying that Karadzic has got an agenda for the visit, but that he is "in Belgrade for the time being." He also added that the Russian president is "very busy." In any case, I am hoping that Mr. Karadzic, who is coming to Moscow at the invitation of a group of Russian parliamentarians, will have interesting meetings there, Churkin said.

The Russian diplomat arrived in Belgrade on a two-day visit, in his capacity as the Russian president's special envoy for Bosnia.

Cosic, Churkin Hold Talks

LD0804015793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2229 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, 7 Apr (TANJUG)—Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic received in his Belgrade residence this evening Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, who is also a special envoy at the talks on the Bosnian crisis.

The talks behind closed doors between Cosic and Churkin, who arrived on a two-day visit to Belgrade today, lasted about an hour. Prior to his meeting with the Yugoslav president, Churkin had talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Serb republic [in Bosnia-Herzegovina] President Radovan Karadzic.

In a short statement after the talks with Cosic, Churkin did not disclose any details about the essence of his negotiating mission in Belgrade.

The Russian diplomat only said that he and Cosic discussed the efforts to establish peace in former Yugoslavia. "Once again we spoke a great deal about Bosnia," he said. "I previously spoke with Karadzic for nearly three hours after which we continued the discussion on the same topic about what could or could not be done to adopt the peace plan for Bosnia."

According to Churkin, every meeting with the Yugoslav president gives him fresh hope that a peaceful solution will be found.

Churkin added that talks with Radovan Karadzic would be resumed tomorrow morning.

Asked what his assessment of the talks so far was, Churkin said that they were intensive, but that they are not finished and therefore he wished to resume them.

Dragoslav Rancic, the Yugoslav president's special press adviser, said that in the course of the talks, Churkin presented his view of the Vancouver summit. Rancic explained that he could not add anything else to what Churkin had said because an agreement with the Russian mediator was such that for the time being, no further details could be made available for the public.

However, it has been learned from circles close to the Yugoslav president that Vitaliy Churkin came to Belgrade with a concrete proposal and that a certain degree of optimism exists regarding the acceptance of the peace plan.

It has also been learned that President Cosic showed understanding for proposals put forward by Churkin, but that the Bosnian Serbs had the final say.

Churkin is to leave for New York tomorrow. Before his departure he will meet Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic.

Karadzic, Churkin Resume Talks

LD0804095993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0923 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, 8 Apr (TANJUG)— Radovan Karadzic, president of the Serbian Republic (of Bosnia-Herzegovina) and Vitaliy Churkin, special Russian negotiator for Bosnia, met this morning. This is their second meeting in Belgrade over the past two days. They are focusing their attention on the Bosnian crisis, particularly the Vance-Owen plan.

As far as the Vance-Owen plan is concerned, two documents are disputable—on Bosnia's territorial and administrative division into 10 provinces, and on the so-called transitional solution. As is known, the Bosnian Serbs refused to sign the two disputable documents, excluding the Vance-Owen plan.

Vitaliy Churkin is trying to persuade the Bosnian Serbs to sign these two documents. It is obvious that if one is to achieve this goal he must offer the Serbs something more than what is offered by Vance and Owen. In this context it is significant that there are hints, especially from Moscow, that Churkin did not arrive in Belgrade with an empty suitcase.

Jovanovic on Churkin Visit

LD0704123093 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1152 GMT 7 Apr 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, April 7 (TANJUG)—Political contacts with Russia are always given great importance in Belgrade since Russia is an "influential country, a permanent member of the Security Council and traditionally close to our people," Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic told the Belgrade POLITIKA-Radio on Wednesday [7 April].

Jovanovic's statement came prior to a visit to Yugoslavia by Russian special envoy at the peace talks on Bosnia Vitaliy Churkin, who is expected in Belgrade later on Wednesday.

"We still do not know whether Mr. Churkin will bring along new initiatives, ideas or proposals," Jovanovic said. "We suppose that he will propose something in connection to the U.S.-Russian summit recently. We believe that this visit would help promote the negotiation trend and eliminate the pressures which might lead to the further escalation of the crisis and tightening of sanctions against Yugoslavia."

Churkin, Russia's deputy foreign minister, is to meet with representatives of Yugoslavia, Serbia and probably the Serb Republic in Bosnia-Herzegovina to discues possibilities of resolving the crisis in Bosnia.

According to reports from Moscow, Churkin is bringing along new initiatives which are to step up the negotiation process in the former Yugoslav Republic.

Foreign Minister Comments on Sanctions

AU0704192293 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1940 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Statements by Federal Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic during a panel discussion organized by Belgrade Television on the effects of the UN sanctions in the television studio—live]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Mr. Jovanovic, considering that the FRY Government has already started an initiative for the lifting of the sanctions—you have already spoken about his in the past—can you tell us at the beginning to what extent these sanctions were indeed necessary and what has been achieved with them so far?

[Jovanovic] These sanctions had one declared and several undeclared goals. The declared goal was based on the assumption, a premise that Yugoslavia had carried out aggression against Bosnia and that because of that it was the most responsible for the situation that developed in that former Yugoslav republic. This premise has never been proved. On the contrary. All the proof that was pouring into the United Nations, above all from the UN officials themselves, the secretary general and his envoys on the territory of the present day Yugoslavia, was showing the opposite situation. It showed that there was not a single Yugoslav soldier in Bosnia-Herzegovina, that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had withdrawn the last of its soldiers, the last of its citizen from Bosnia-Herzegovina immediately after the promulgation of the new constitution on 27 April last year. Yugoslavia invited foreign observers, UN observers to come to its border with Bosnia to see it for themselves that this border is not being abused in the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In the meantime, the international community, via its most official and most respectable representatives, has accepted the fact that Bosnia-Herzegovina is experiencing a ruthless, interethnic, religious, and civil war. It confirmed this by inviting the representatives of the three warring sides to the Geneva conference and the New York talks, demanding that they agree on ending the war and on a general political solution to the dispute.

Yugoslavia was not invited, which implicitly and explicitly shows that it is not a party involved in the war. Unfortunately, the sanctions that were introduced under the assumption that Yugoslavia was not only a party involved in the war, but also the most important party in the war, are still in effect even though in the meanwhile they lost every legal and political sense or raison d'etre. Those who are in favor of maintaining and tightening the sanctions, even perhaps increasing them, still insist on sanctions as the correct political way to solve the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Of course, one mistake cannot be corrected by continually repeating it. Unfortunately, the Security Council, and many other countries that lead the way in this policy of punishing Yugoslavia, are continuing to make this mistake, and thus inflicting irreparable damage and misfortune on a large section of the civilian population in our country, and not only the citizens of Yugoslavia, but also of the civilian population of Bosnia-Herzegovina that found a shelter in Yugoslavia. Among them there are about 50,000 Muslims and 20,000 Croats. These are all facts that should be considered. The international community should think about this, because the moment of truth has come for the international community, and thus for the revision of the policy that has been conducted so far in the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis, policy that showed itself to be completely arbitrary.

[Announcer] The citizens of Yugoslavia are very confused about all these sanctions and their consequences.

There is a paranoid view that someone wants to destroy these people. This is of course difficult to believe. This cannot be the goal.

[Jovanovic] Of course, there are not such goals, except perhaps in the heads of some individuals who are enthralled with the insane revanchist idea of inflicting as much evil or evils to the Serbian people as possible. Let us not forget that the one such prominent politician, from Europe, from a respectable European country, allowed himself to say several times that the Serbs, the Serbian people should be brought to their knees. This is an extremely irresponsible statement for a beginner in the primary school let alone a politician who thinks that he knows the world and that it is leading it toward better solutions.

There is something else that is more tangible in all this situation, namely that the Yugoslav crisis has been an exceptionally attractive thing for those who always wanted to revise the system of peace agreements in this part of Europe, those who exploited Yugoslavia's weaknesses for carrying out several aggressions against our country. First, this was the political aggression of breaking up of Yugoslavia under the pretext of various transparent excuses and support to secessionists. This was followed by the media aggression, which is still going on. Between them, there was the economic aggression in the form of sanctions. No one can deny the fact that these constitute unfounded attacks on a country and its population, attacks that only represent a facade concealing very pragmatic, specific goals and interests of some countries in our immediate and more distant neighborhood. They are no longer hiding this, because they want, instead of the present Yugoslavia, to create their own zones of influence, their own country-clients; they want to secure through this their dominance over a long period of years ahead of us.

Our resistance is a barrier that is not only hindering this, but also threatening the preservation of the already attained. Therefore, this pressure on us is so ruthless, so offensive, and so unreserved.

However, this, too, is nearing the end, because, as I said, the moment of truth is coming closer, and everyone will finally have to reexamine and see whether this policy is the policy that can accomplish the set aims. [passage omitted]

Bosnian Serbs Living in Yugoslavia Conscripted

LD0704150893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1410 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, 7 Apr (TANJUG)—The state leadership of the Serb Republic [of Bosnia-Herzegovina] today sent call-up notices to its citizens who have fled to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, despite being subject to military service, asking them to report immediately to their mobilization centers.

The call-up papers stress that those who voluntarily heed the call-up "will face no legal or other charges for their absence from the front line."

The campaign to send soldiers to the front voluntarily is continuing, it is said, "because of the possibility of fresh combat operations and expected provocations." Volunteers can report immediately to the Mission of the Serb Republic in Belgrade, 8 Mose Pijade Street, seventh floor.

At the same time, families have been informed that the government is securing, via the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], conditions for their return and accomodation in the Serb republic [in Bosnia-Herzegovina].

Sanctions Push Production Into Decline

LD0704155893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1355 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, 7 Apr (TANJUG)—Unfair sanctions must be lifted as soon as possible because under these conditions there can be no economic activity. This was stated at a session of the presidium of the Belgrade Economic Chamber today, when it was stressed that the negative effects of the blockade are being felt even more drastically this year.

Belgrade industry recorded a 22.3 percent fall in January and a 35.3 percent fall in February. The greatest fall of 42 pecrent was recorded in the production of transport vehicles. Production fell by 39 percent in the machine-building industry; by 36 percent in the printing industry; and by 35 percent in the production of ready-made textile products.

An unresolved problem besetting the Belgrade economy under these conditions is the large number of workers on compulsory leave. For example, the Ikarus and Zelengora factories are using only 10 pervent of their capacities, while the 21 May factory and some sections of the Elektronska Industrija factory are using only 25 percent of their capacities. The Ikarus car factory and the Zelengora factory have the largest number of workers. About 90 percent of their work forces are on compulsory leave.

Savovic on Plans for Minorities, Language Laws

LD0804080093 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2241 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, April 7 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Minister of Human and Minority Rights Margit Savovic said on Wednesday [7 April] that federal bodies were drawing up laws on national minorities and the official use of language, and that a Yugoslav office of high commissioner for refugees would be set up.

The new office will assume all competences in this field, in agreement with its existing counterparts in the republics of Serbia and Montenegro, Savovic told reporters in Belgrade.

She said the federal government had not yet decided on a possible extension of mandate of the CSCE (Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe) mission for the Serbian provinces of Kosovo-Metohija and Vojvodina and the region of Sandzak, which is due to expire at the end of this month.

Savovic said she personally thought that the matter should be given a thorough consideration because of a ban on Yugoslavia's activity in the CSCE.

She mentioned that the existing mission should not have been accepted under its present name—it should have been a mission for Yugoslavia, not Kosovo-Metohija, Vojvodina and Sandzak.

On her recent visit to Vojvodina's multinational village Hrtkovci, Savovic pointed out that no evidence of ethnic cleansing had been found there. But she did not rule out incidents involving individuals, and said that all such cases would be investigated.

Turning to the situation in Kosovo-Metohija, Savovic said it would only be possible to settle the problems there when the Albanian national minority—which is the majority population in the province—recognizes the state it lives in.

A strong movement for Kosovo-Metohija's secession from Serbia and Yugoslavia and its joining to Albania has been active in the province for some time.

On the announced visit to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by member of the European Parliament Otto von Habsburg, Savovic said that he 'Ought not to have been invited in the first place, because his past activities do not show him to be well-intentioned.'

She said she would not participate in talks during the visit, but that she had prepared data on the position of national minorities at the request of President Dobrica Cosic, who had invited Otto von Habsburg to visit the F.R. of Yugoslavia.

Serbia

Minister Promises Strict Danube Shipping Tolls

LD0704195893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1250 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 7 Apr (TANJUG)—Zarko Katic, Serbian minister for transport and communications, stated today that in the coming days Serbia will begin the strict application of a decision on the payment of full ship toll charges for sailing through the Yugoslav part of the Danube.

Minister Katic stated this at a meeting with representatives of river shipping companies, ports, and trade unions which was held at the Serbian Economic Chamber today.

A decision to introduce ship toll charges was adopted earlier this year, but it was not strictly applied. Shipping companies from neighboring countries enjoyed special treatment regarding the toll, Katic said.

"The Romanians have now completely blockaded the Danube and therefore all their boats will have to pay the toll imposed by our country," Katic explained.

According to him, all the toll revenue will be earmarked for transport. Shipping companies representatives informed the transport minister that they are increasingly affected by the lack of fuel and that due to the UN sanctions their business in the Yugoslav part of the Danube has dwindled. [passage omitted]

Minister: Foreign Police in Danube Would Set Precedent

LD0704155493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1458 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, April 7 (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia's neighbours on the Danube would set a precedent in international relations if they allowed foreign police to patrol the Danube in order to put pressure on Yugoslavia, Serbian Minister of Transport Zarko Katic said on Wednesday [7 April].

This might affect Yugoslavia's good-neighbourly relations with those countries, the minister told TANJUG.

Commenting on the decision of the Western European Union (W.E.U.) to clamp an air-tight police control on Yugoslav ships and cargoes in the Danube, disrupting free navigation in this European river, Katic said: "As far as I know, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Ukraine and Russia are not members of the W.E.U. [West European Union] . It is therefore all the more surprising how they may decide to offer their hospitality to police from Germany, France, Italy and other countries."

Katic said that Yugoslavia and its Republic of Serbia had not been officially informed about the relevant decision of the W.E.U., and would decide what steps to take in response in the Yugoslav section of the Danube only after receiving such information.

He stressed that a total blockade of the Danube for the Yugoslav ships and economy, if enforced, would bring incalculable losses to Yugoslavia.

"The losses will have to be made good through bilateral agreements with the Danube-basin countries which might open their doors to police from Western Europe, and other measures, including reintroduction of taxes for foreign ships in the Danube through Yugoslavia," said Katic.

He hoped, however, that the [word indistinct] in the Danube-basin countries would again express their solidarity with their Yugoslav colleagues, because anything else would bring losses to all.

Commentary Criticizes Kozyrev's 'Verdict' on Serbs

AU0704164493 Belgrade VECERNJE NOVOSTI in Serbo-Croatian 6 Apr 93 p 2

[Commentary by Borislav Komad: "Survival as a—Mistake!"]

[Text] Andrey Kozyrev, foreign policy interpreter of the Kremlin leader and direct executor of the political will of Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, has called the gigantic struggle for survival of about three million Serbs to be—a "tragic mistake."

Thus has the hand of official Russian politics touched the hilt of the sword that should carry out the execution of the Serbian people and not only on the seething soil of former Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Accompanying his president, who was seeking rescue for himself and his general doctrine from White House chief Bill Clinton in Vancouver in Canada, the Russian minister—not by chance before his Western patrons—pronounced a verdict on the Serbian people in a former Yugoslav republic in the wake of the unanimous "no" that that people spoke at their assembly in Bileca in reply to the world and worldly dictate.

In NBC's Meet the Press program organized by the Canadian hosts [as published], Kozyrev termed a people's readiness to defend its freedom at the cost of its biological survival to be a "tragic mistake," considering it no tragedy if one surrenders that entire people to the mercy of those attacking it!

As the Russian foreign minister never makes any statement, particularly not to the press, without Washington's blessing, this time too he said something that would appeal to the new ally.

Labeling his views a "pragmatic approach," and assessing the situation in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina as "alarming," Kozyrev also said that Russia will continue to pressure the sides in the conflict to accept the compromise based on the Vance-Owen plan.

"I find it hard to see anybody in the United States or elsewhere prepared to send more than 100,000 ground troops to fight there. It seems this is completely out of the question," the Russian minister said almost with regret.

However, he failed to elaborate on his pragmatism about the other two warring sides to American television reporters.

Neither was it done by his "unidentified clerk," as the world's agencies called a Russian Foreign Ministry official who, while Kozyrev was in Vancouver, spoke up from Moscow with the assessment that the "Serbs continue their obstinacy and fail to agree to the Vance-Owen maps."

Therefore, from the point of view of the most official Russian policy, the struggle for survival is a "tragic mistake" and "obstinacy," and it can be concluded that accepting a dictate is a—virtue!

The extent to which that recipe has helped Russia and its present leadership can already be seen and is yet to be seen.

Macedonia

Opposition Demand for Rejection of UN Admission Fails

LD0804020793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2106 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Skopje, 7 Apr (TANJUG)—This evening, the assembly of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia did not accept conclusions of the group of deputies of the VMRO-DPMNE [Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Democratic Party of Macedonian National Unity] in which the party rejects conditions for the admission of the republic into the United Nations.

The VMRO-DPMNE group of deputies demanded that the Macedonian assembly reject UN Security Council Resolution 817 on the admission of Macedonia into the United Nations under the provisional name of "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia."

VMRO-DPMNE deputies and certain independent deputies voted for the conclusions, while deputies of the Social-Democratic Alliance (former Communists) and Reformist Forces voted against. Deputies of the Albanian parties attending the session abstained. Finally, there were 30 votes against, 28 for, and 13 abstentions.

This represents the deepening of a gap between deputies of the two largest Macedonian parties—the opposition VMRO-DPMNE party and the ruling Social-Democratic Alliance of Macedonia.

It was announced in the course of the session that the UN Security Council had just adopted a decision to propose to the UN General Assembly to admit the new state to the United Nations. The news, however, did not cause joy and happiness, but dead silence prevailed, "as if it were somebody's funeral," as one of the deputies put it.

Opposition deputies concluded that the republican government violated the Constitution by giving consent to the UN Security Council to rename this republic "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia." They announced that the Macedonian Constitutional Court will be asked to examine the constitutionality of the government's decision to accept the name of "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia."

Deputies of Albanian parties again used this session to stress that they could never accept Macedonia as a single-nation state, but only as a state in which Albanians and other national communities would have the status of a nation.

Rallies Protest Against Name Change for UN Admission

LD0704230393 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2145 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Skopje, 7 Apr (TANJUG)—Prompted by news that the UN Security Council will propose to the UN General Assembly that Macedonia be admitted to the United Nations under the name of "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", this evening citizens held protest rallies in Skopje, Kocani in the east, and in Resen in the west of the state.

At the rallies, citizens protested the change of the constitutional name of the republic and other concessions made to Greece and to the United Nations.

About 600 Macedonian intellectuals took part in the protest rally in Skopje, calling for resistance to the change in the constitutional name of the republic. They held their protest rally in front of the republic assembly.

Gligorov To Participate in Security Council Session

LD0704144993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1402 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Skopje, 7 Apr (TANJUG)—Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov left Skopje for New York today. As the president's office announced, in New York Gligorov is to take part in a session of the UN Security Council which is expected to examine the adoption of a proposal for the admission of the new state into the United Nations under the name of "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

Party Claims Macedonians Second Largest Balkan Nation

LD0704222593 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1736 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Skopje, 7 Apr (TANJUG)—After the Serbian nation, the Macedonian nation is the second largest nation in the Balkans with 6 million people, including 2 million Macedonians living in Bulgaria and 1.5 million in Greece. Deputies of the VMRO-DPMNE [Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Democratic Party for the Macedonian National Unity] made this claim within the framework of a discussion about the hitherto activities of the Macedonian government regarding the admission to the United Nations at this evening's session of the Assembly of the former Republic of Macedonia.

The deputies of the VMRO-DPMNE, which is the largest party in the Macedonian Assembly, wanted to illustrate problems which Macedonia has regarding its admission to the United Nations, with this information about the size of the Macedonian nation and especially its minority in Bulgaria and Macedonia.

Assembly Deputy Speaker Tito Petkovski said that "Greece has received Aegean Macedonia as a gift from great powers in 1913" and that "it has no legitimate rights over that territory."

It was also stated at the session that since Macedonia was recognized by Bulgaria, Turkey, and Russia, signatories of the Bucharest Treaty [signed 10 August 1913, dividing Macedonia among Greece, Bulgaria, and Serbia], this means that this document was revised to a degree.

Kosovo

TANJUG Says Albanian Has Plan for 'Snatching' Province

LD0704215893 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1913 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Sofia, April 7 (TANJUG)—Albanian Defence Minister Safet Zhulali on Wednesday [7 April] offered a scenario for snatching Kosovo-Metohija from its parent Serbia.

Zhulali proposed that U.N. peacekeepers be sent to that province in the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia, that Kosovo-Metohija be demilitarized, which can only mean a displacement of the Yugoslav military facilities from the province, after which the local population would vote on its status in an internationally supervised referendum.

Zhulali spoke at a press conference in Sofia, after signing an agreement on military cooperation with his Bulgarian counterpart Valentin Alexandrov.

The offer is tantamount to interference in the internal affairs of a soverign state and directly encourages the province's secession, which has for years been the goal of ethnic Albanian separatists in the province. Kosovo-Metohija has a hefty ethnic Albanian community.

A similar scenario is being forced on the world by ethnic Albanians, who have unlawfully proclaimed Kosovo-Metohija a republic and strive for its annexation to neighbouring Albania, although as an ethnic minority they have no right to self-determination and a separate state.

Asked by reporters what Albania's position would be in case a conflict broke out in Kosovo-Metohija, he replied Albania would 'prevent ethnic cleansing by all means and the entire potential at the disposal of the Albanian nation.'

Albanians in Kosovo-Metohija and politicians in Albania seek to disturb the international public with trumped-up reports of 'ethnic cleansing' practiced in the province against its Albanian population.

In point of fact, Kosovo-Metohija is actually ethnically pure, with its Serbs and Montenegrins persecuted out of their ancestral homes by ethnic Albanians who have for years held the political and administrative power in the province and practiced ethnic cleansing against non-Albanians. Tens of thousands of Serbs and Montenegrins have fled the province, seeking to escape harassment at the hands of ethnic Albanians who are pursuing the call of their leaders for an ethnically pure Kosovo.